



DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Executive Director

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December 6, 2022

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly
Vice Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Vice Chair Kelly:

On December 2, 2022, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) sent you a letter responding to your request for a review of the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON). After submitting that letter, DLS received feedback from several of the health occupations boards referenced in the letter informing us that data relating to the boards' fund balances was incorrect. This letter seeks to correct that information so that you have a complete picture of MBON's fund balance in relation to the other large health boards.

In your original inquiry, you asked: **How does the board's fund balance compare to other health occupations boards?**

In the December 2 letter, **Exhibit 6** (page 9) showed the fund balances of MBON, the State Board of Physicians, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Dental Examiners, and the State Board of Social Work Examiners (SBSWE). Unfortunately, these fund balances were incorrect. The corrected version of this exhibit is shown below.

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Corrected Exhibit 6
Board Fund Balance and Regulated Practitioner Ratio
Fiscal 2021

<u>Board</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Regulated Practitioners</u>	<u>Fund Balance Per Practitioner</u>
Nursing	\$906,927	281,940	\$3.22
Physicians	3,451,871	48,079	71.80
Pharmacy	2,885,722	32,800	87.98
Dental Examiners	1,182,049	17,250	68.52
Social Work Examiners	631,848	16,795	37.62

Note: Nursing practitioners provided by the Maryland Board of Nursing. Total practitioners for remaining boards from *Managing For Results* data.

Source: Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Rather than MBON having the second highest fiscal 2021 fund balance, as DLS previously reported, it actually has the second *lowest* fund balance at \$906,927. Of the boards shown, only SBSWE has a lower fund balance. MBON's practitioner-to-fund balance ratio is the *lowest* across the largest health occupation boards at \$3.22 per regulated practitioner (rather than \$103 per practitioner as cited in the December 2 letter). The State Board of Pharmacy has the highest ratio at \$87.98.

DLS would also like to correct an error in the discussion on MBON transparency in which the date of the cybersecurity hack of the Maryland Department of Health was listed as 2020, rather than 2021 (see December 2 letter, page 17).

Finally, MBON has raised a point of clarification that DLS feels is valuable to add. While the December 2 letter discussed MBON's activities with regard to regulating individual practitioners, the letter omitted that MBON staff also devote time to approving registered nursing or licensed practical nursing education programs, nursing assistant training programs, and electrology education programs, and will soon be approving dialysis technician training programs. Further, in addition to standard practitioner licensing and credentialing, board staff also devote time to certifying workers compensation case managers and forensic nurse examiners. These activities draw on staff time but are not reflected in the practitioner statistics discussed in the prior letter.

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly
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We hope this updated information is useful to you. If you or your staff have additional questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

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cc: Karen Evans, Executive Director, Maryland Board of Nursing