



Board of Pharmacy

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

*Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Ave. Baltimore MD, 21215 mlh.mdbop@maryland.gov*

February 16, 2023

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

RE: House Bill 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

HB 196 would require the Board to issue an “expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit” to a qualified “service member, veteran, or military spouse...” that would be valid until (1) six months after the date of issuance or (2) the date on which a full license is issued, whichever is earlier. §§ 1-702.1(A)(1) – (2). HB 196 would require, among other items, the Board to determine whether an applicant’s “license, certificate, registration, or permit...required substantially similar qualifications...” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(II)(3). HB 196 would require, among other items, the Board to verify that an “applicant has completed a national criminal history records check in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. § 1-702.1(A)(3)(V). HB 196 would require, among other items, the Board to verify that an “applicant has submitted an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting.” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(VI). HB 196 would authorize the Board to set an application fee for the “expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit.” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(VII). HB 196 would require the Board to develop a procedure by which an applicant can “prominently” notify the Board of their affiliation with the military. § 1-704(a)(1) – (2). HB 196 would require the Board to collect and report information regarding applications received, processed, not processed, and delayed to the General Assembly starting in 2025. § 1-704(e).

HB 196 would require the Board to create a new class of expedited temporary licenses, registrations, and permits. Additionally, the Board would be required to develop and implement a new monitoring system to track temporary licenses, registrations, and permits that expire six months post issuance or the date on which a full license is issued, whichever is earlier. The Board’s current processing time for completed full applications is 48 hours. Should HB 196 become law, the Board would be required to verify that an “applicant has submitted an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting” as part of the temporary expedited application process. Accepting both applications would increase the number of forms

the Board's licensing specialists process. Additionally, the Board would be required to determine whether an applicant's "license, certificate, registration, or permit...required substantially similar qualifications..." To implement this provision, a member of the licensing staff would be required to compare and evaluate whether the qualifications that supported an applicant's valid license, registration, or permit are substantially similar to the qualifications required to obtain a full license, registration, or permit from the Board. This analysis may require substantial communication with an applicant and correspondence with other licensing entities, which may lead to processing delays. Issuing temporary licenses, registrations, and permits may increase processing time for full licenses, registrations, and permits.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires all health occupations boards to expedite the licensing and registration process for active-duty service members, veterans, and military spouses. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-701 – 706. The Board is in full compliance with the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 and has posted an informational notice on its website regarding the law. The Board provides application assistance to covered persons who submit a request.

The Board supports full employment of veterans, military spouses, and service members; however, creating a new class of expedited temporary permits would create administrative burdens for the Board without providing substantial benefits to covered persons.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deena Speights-Napata". The signature is written in a cursive style with some vertical lines separating the first and last names.

Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director