



Board of Acupuncture

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

*Brandie Armijo, Chair – Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4766*

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: HB 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 State Board of Acupuncture (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Information for HB 196 - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

As introduced, HB 196 proposes that the health boards and commissions:

- Issue an expedited *temporary* license, certification, registration or permit if a service member, veteran, or military spouse meets the requirements to issue the license, certificate, or registration within 15 business days after receiving a completed application.

The Board has no position on HB 196, as written, especially in consideration of existing statutes §1-701–705. However, the Board wanted to share a few points for consideration as the bill is reviewed.

1. The Board received 6 applications in the past three years from qualified military service members, veterans or military spouses: and
2. At present, in the past three years, the Board issued a license within six calendar days of receiving the full complete application for each.

HB 196 recognizes the military family experience, which includes relocating multiple times to new communities all over the country. The Board fully supports efforts to ensure that our military families with licensed healthcare practitioners experience minimal professional disruption. However, in consideration of the two aforementioned points, the creation of a temporary license category would likely result in additional fees for the temporary license for service members and their spouses; and would be an additional administrative burden for the Board without resulting in any significant decrease in time that they can practice based on the Board's license issuance rate, which is less than 15 days.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 196 and hopes this information is a useful contribution to the deliberative process. The Board is open to further discussion as needed. I can be reached at (410)764-5925 or tiffany.smith-williams@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, Executive Director
Maryland Board of Acupuncture

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.