



Board of Nursing

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

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 978 – Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 978 – Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder. This bill includes first responders within the scope of certain prohibitions against making or delivering threats to take the life of, kidnap, or cause physical injury to certain officials.

The Board believes the definition of “first responder” should be further expanded to encompass more health occupations that perform emergency or similar services. The phrase “nurse or doctor” should instead be replaced with health care provider who is licensed or certified under the Health Occupations Article and who provides emergency services. This updated definition would include certified nursing assistants, patient care technicians, and other individuals who practice within the acute care and emergency settings.

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information for HB 978.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Iman Farid, Health Planning and Development Administrator, at iman.farid@maryland.gov or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

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