

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Delegate Jamila Woods, representing Legislative District 26, located in the southern quadrant of Prince Georges County, Maryland. I'm here in support of HB 19.

In alignment with efforts to make Psychologists, who meet established licensing requirements, more readily available for service to their stakeholders, this legislation seeks to repeal current requirements, established by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, for licensing requirements to be mailed via first-class mail. This bill also reverses current licensing procedures, repeatedly requiring certain, previously verified, information to be included on each license and registration.

The advancement of technology has afforded the opportunity for swifter, less complicated, and often more precise recording of required information across the board, for professional service providers. Electronic filing provides for the immediate transfer of required information from one source to the other, allowing for the immediate compilation of information within the State Board of Examiners. This also eliminates the need to transfer paper copies, the assembling of materials from multiple sources, and the labor-intensive process of assuring all information is included, and attachments available, and stored, in the form of paper filing systems.

The adoption of this legislation will afford the State of Maryland to join other states whose psychologists currently benefit from credential renewal through electronic filing, including New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Idaho.

Finally, electronic filing is cost effective, resulting in the elimination of postage, except in those instances where there are barriers to effective communication between the licensee and the licensing agent electronically. In instances where the Board is unable to reach participants electronically, they will be required to send renewal notices by first-class mail to registrants, or at the specific request of the registrants.

We have all witnessed the sometimes-challenging processes involved in what the results of ongoing technology advancement, now references as “snail mail.” This can be due to various circumstances; nevertheless, potentially adversely impacting the timely delivery of information to recipients. Electronic filing will alleviate this, and other timely reporting barriers.

Thank you.