



# Board of Nursing

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

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information with Amendments**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 196 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. This bill requires each health occupations board to issue an expedited temporary license or certificate to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a checkbox prominently on a license or certification application form; and requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish certain information on its website.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires the Board to expedite the licensure and certification process for military – affiliated applicants. The Board may issue a temporary license or certificate of a period of ninety (90) days after verifying the completion of requirements. If an applicant is unable to meet certain statutory requirements, the temporary license or certificate can be extended at the discretion of the executive director for an additional ninety (90) days.

The Board believes this bill acts to supplement the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013. The most notable changes for the Board include the (1) issuance of an expedited temporary license or certificate for a period of six (6) months; (2) verification of military and/or marriage documents; and (3) the development of a checkbox to notify the Board of an applicant’s military affiliation. The Board may be provided more flexibility by applying to the Secretary to approve an alternative process for issuing expedited temporary licenses or certificates.

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment to strengthen the conditions under which a temporary license or certificate is denied. A notice to deny is issued when the Board determines, through a positive criminal history records check (CHRC), that an applicant has a history of previous disciplinary action against their license or an unrelated criminal conviction that resulted in a penalty. It would be inappropriate for the Board to issue a notice of denial to

applicants who had not received a positive CHRC. The amendment would allow the Board to assist the military – affiliated applicant if they do not initially meet the education, training, or experience requirements for licensure or certification through a mechanism established by the Veterans Employment Act.

On page 3. After Line 19. Add:

**(III) THE DATE UPON WHICH A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD DETERMINES THAT A SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN, OR MILITARY SPOUSE DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.**

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for HB 196.

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