



Board of Examiners of Psychologists

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

*Samantha Rukert, Chair – Lorraine Smith, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4786*

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 726
COMMITTEE: HGO
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

TITLE: State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS:

This Bill, as amended, extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) for two (2) years until July 1, 2025.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board supports SB 726 with the amendment to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to ten (10) years until July 1, 2033.

The MDH administration agreed to sponsor this Bill during this legislative session but amended the Bill to extend the Board only until July 1, 2025, instead of July 1, 2033, which is customary and what the Board requested of the Department.

Mental health services have always been essential for the well-being of people and, in particular, the citizens of Maryland. However, it is now a critical service of need. Interrupting the licensing and other processes that ensures that Maryland has competent, ethical, and effective psychologists could be devastating to the state. Over many years the Board has consistently protected the public by setting standards for the practice of psychology, licensing psychologists, registering psychology associates, and receiving and resolving complaints promptly and efficiently. During the cyber-attack and at the height of COVID, the Board continued to process new licensure and renewal applications, issued temporary exceptions to practice in Maryland to psychologists licensed in other states, and investigated complaints timely and accurately.

The passing of this Bill will ensure the continuation of the Board's mandated responsibilities to carry out its mission to protect the citizens of Maryland without interruption. The Board respectfully asks that the committee amends this legislation to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to ten years.

Amendment 1

On page 2, line 6: Strike **2025** and insert **2033**.

The Board appreciates the Committees consideration and respectfully request a favorable outcome on SB 726 with amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact Lorraine Smith, Executive Director at, Lorraine.smith@maryland.gov or at 410-764-4786 if you have any questions.

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