



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

March 23, 2023

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

RE: SB 728 - State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension - Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 726 - State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Sunset Extension. As amended, SB 726 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Psychologists (Board) for two (2) years, until July 1, 2025.

MDH appreciates the Senate Committee’s incorporation of MDH’s amendment to shorten the sunset date of the Board from three (3) years to two (2) years. A sunset evaluation and extension is a tool to review existing laws and regulations governing the State’s occupational and professional Boards. These reviews facilitate the careful consideration of the Board’s purpose and operations, including ensuring that licensing is protecting public health and safety and that licensing is not overly broad or burdensome.¹ Of note, Chapter 511 of the Acts of 2019 eliminated Maryland’s automatic 10 year sunset evaluations that were conducted by the Department of Legislative Services prior to extensions.² In its place, sunset evaluations are now conducted only when directed by certain entities.

MDH believes a more thorough evaluation of the Health Occupations Boards is needed at this time to assess ongoing concerns related to licensure, technology, and administrative functions. MDH believes a two (2) year sunset extension allows ample time for MDH and the Boards to examine these functions and return to the General Assembly in 2025 with an update.

If you have any questions please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/sunset-and-sunrise>

² <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/sb0640?ys=2019RS>