



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 507
TITLE: State Board of Physicians – Supervised Medical Graduates
COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
POSITION: Letter of Support

TITLE: State Board of Physicians – Supervised Medical Graduates

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill HB 507 proposes that the Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) authorize supervised medical graduates to provide delegated duties under direct supervision in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Physicians and generally relating to supervised medical graduates.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board is submitting this Letter of Support for House Bill HB 507 State Board of Physicians – Supervised Medical Graduates. The Board supports initiatives that aim to integrate qualified individuals into the struggling healthcare workforce in a scope that befits their education and training.

House Bill 507 has similar aims to the current regulation (HO 14-306 and COMAR 10.32.12), where licensed physicians are permitted to delegate specific medical acts to unlicensed individuals. These unlicensed individuals include Assistants and Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (RCIS), who are currently able to perform technical acts that align with national medical standards and site-specific policies and procedures in specific categories. The Board supports implementing similar regulations for Supervised Medical Graduates to align with this practice.

Legislation similar to House Bill 507 has been passed in other states, but the number of individuals practicing under these laws has been minimal. For example, in Arizona, only 26 permittees have been practicing under the supervision of a physician, according to data from the Arizona Medical Board. The Board has been unable to determine the population of potential Supervised Medical Graduates in Maryland that would be affected by this legislation. However, data exist that nationally, there were a total of 37,425 Residency positions available in 2023, with 7% (2,603) of those positions remaining unfilled. In Maryland, there were a total of 711 residency positions available in 2022, with 2.1% (15) of those positions remaining unfilled. Given the low population and the fact that many of these individuals are already covered by existing regulations (HO 14-306/COMAR 10.32.12), the Board believes that addressing the practice of these Supervised Medical Graduates in regulations rather than the creation of a new licensure category is best.

The Board would like to note that in its current form, HB 507 is listed as an emergency bill set to take effect on the date of its enactment. HB 507 will require the Board to develop and promulgate regulations, a process that requires stakeholder input and substantial time and resources. Therefore, if HB 507 passes as emergency legislation, the Board would appreciate guidance with regard to an appropriate timeline for the development of these regulations.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinions of the Board expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.