



Board of Nursing

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

March 14, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 568 – Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 568 – Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder. This bill includes first responders within the scope of certain prohibitions against making or delivering threats to take the life of, kidnap, or cause physical injury to certain officials.

The Board believes the definition of “first responder” should be further expanded to encompass more health occupations that perform emergency or similar services. The phrase “nurse or doctor” remains ambiguous and could include direct – entry and/or advanced practitioners. The definition should instead be replaced with health care provider who is licensed or certified under the Health Occupations Article and who provides emergency services. This updated category would include certified nursing assistants, patient care technicians, and other providers who practice within the acute care and emergency settings.

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information for SB 568.

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