



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 221
Health Occupation Boards - Reciprocal Licensure and Certification***

Position: Support

Committee: Finance

Date: January 30, 2024

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 221. The bill would help address a shortage of critical licensed or certified health professionals.

Bill Summary

The bill authorizes a health occupation board to adopt regulations creating reciprocity for a health professional who is licensed or certified in another state. In order for reciprocity to be granted, the other state must also grant reciprocity to Maryland's licensed or certified health professionals. The licensing or certification standards must be substantially equivalent to Maryland's requirements and the health professional must be in good standing under the laws of the other state.

Position Rationale

Not all health occupational boards have the authority to grant reciprocity under current law and there is a shortage of licensed or certified health professionals in many fields, such as environmental health specialists. Senate Bill 221 removes a potential employment barrier by eliminating the need for a health professional to go through the time-consuming process of becoming licensed or certified a second time in Maryland.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 221.