

MAND Testimony 2024 - SUPPORT - Senate Bill 238 -

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MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Date: January 16, 2024

Bill: Senate Bill 238 - State Board of Dietetic Practice – Sunset Extension

Committee: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (MAND) represents about 900 Registered and Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists in the state. MAND appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 238. Licensed Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists work in many different types of facilities from hospitals to schools, supermarkets to long term care facilities. Our mission is to educate the citizens of Maryland in the health implications of good nutrition with evidenced based information.

We write in support of Senate Bill 238 which extends the operations of the State Board of Dietetic Practice until 2028. As professionals regulated by the Board, we see firsthand the benefit of the Board to the professionals they serve and the protection of the citizens of Maryland they provide.

The Board of Dietetic Practice helps to protect the public from harm by promoting quality health care in the field of dietetics by helping to establish the standards and verifying the credentials of those who practice in Maryland. Furthermore, they issue and maintain and maintain a roster of all licensed dietitian/nutritionists in Maryland and receive, investigate, and resolve complaints of alleged violators of regulators and statutes.

MAND believes the continuation of the Board of Dietetics Practice is extremely important for the reasons stated above and therefore we ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 238.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Kiel, MS, RDN, LDN, CCRP, FAND
Public Policy Coordinator

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MAND President
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SB 238 - State Board of Dietetic Practice- Sunset

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Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

January 15, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 238 – State Board of Dietetic Practice - Sunset Extension – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 238 - State Board for Certification of Dietetic Practice - Sunset Extension. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Board from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028.

The Department is taking a uniform approach to recommended sunset extensions for our independent health occupations boards. 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 three year sunset extension allows ample time for MDH and the Boards to examine these functions and return to the General Assembly in 2026 with an update.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

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

SB 238 - Dietetic Board - SWA - FIN.pdf

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Position: FWA



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

Board of Dietetic Practice
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 238
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: State Board of Dietetic Practice – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as written, would continue the State Board of Dietetic Practice (the “Board”) in accordance with the provision of Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) be extending the Board’s existence to July 1, 2028.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board supports SB 238 with an amendment.

There are currently 2,893 active Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists. The Board has online licensure and renewals. The Board renews certification every two years. There are no outstanding licenses or renewals. In addition, online verifications are available on the Board’s website free of charge. The Board is special funded and does not receive any general funds.

The passing of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mission to protect the citizens of Maryland and to promote quality health care in the field of dietetics by licensing and regulating dietitians and nutritionists, receiving, and resolving complaints, and setting standards for the practice of dietetics.

The Board was established in 1985 and has historically received ten-year sunset extensions. The Board believes there will continue to be a need for Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists in Maryland, beyond three years and is respectfully requesting a ten-year extension for the Board. The State of Maryland has a 60 and over population that is rapidly growing, as well as significant portions of its population that are diagnosed with metabolic diseases, such as diabetes. These two public health challenges, and others like them, are directly aided by a strong and well-regulated workforce of Licensed Dietitians-Nutritionists. The Board is concerned that a shorter sunset

extension will discourage licensure candidates and therefore have a detrimental effect on Maryland's public health effort.

The Board supports SB 238 with amendment and respectfully asks to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

Amendment 1

Page 2, line 3: Strike **2028** and insert **2035**.

If you require additional information, please contact Marie Savage, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Dietetic Practice at (410) 764-4741 or marie.savage@maryland.gov.

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