

SB 240 -State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Su

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

January 18, 2024

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

RE:State Board of Examiners in Optometry – 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 240 State Board of Examiners in Optometry—Sunset Extension. This legislation extends the sunset date of the Board from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 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

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Board of Examiners in Optometry
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
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**2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 240
COMMITTEE: FINANCE
POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: State Board of Examiners in Optometry – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This Bill extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners in Optometry (the “Board”) for 3 years until July 1, 2028.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB240.

This Bill was amended by the Department to extend the Board’s termination date from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028. Passing of this Bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mandated responsibilities of protecting the citizens of Maryland through its credentialing, examination, licensing and disciplinary process for Optometrists.

Thank you for considering this testimony, The Board of Examiners in Optometry is respectfully requesting a favorable report on SB240.

If you require additional information, please contact the Board’s Executive Director, Gwendolyn Joyner, at 410-764-5994, or Gwendolyna.Joyner@maryland.gov.

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