

**3a - SB 241 - FIN - MDH - LOS .pdf**

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

January 30, 2024

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

**RE: SB 241 – State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - 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 241 - State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - 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. The Department 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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

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

**3b- SB 241 - FIN- Board - LOSWA .pdf**

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## Board of Examiners of Psychologists

4201 Patterson Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215

<https://health.maryland.gov/psych>

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### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: SB 241**

**COMMITTEE: FINANCE**

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

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**TITLE: State Board of Examiners of Psychologists – Sunset Extension**

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

This Bill, as amended, extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists ("the Board") for three (3) years until July 1, 2028.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Board supports SB 241 with the amendment to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to ten (10) years until July 1, 2035.

The MDH administration agreed to sponsor this Bill during this legislative session but amended the Bill to extend the Board only until July 1, 2028, instead of July 1, 2035, which is historically customary and what the Board requested of the Department.

Mental health services have always been essential for the well-being of people and, in particular, the citizens of Maryland. However, it is now a critical service of need. Interrupting the licensing and other processes that ensures that Maryland has competent, ethical, and effective psychologists could be devastating to the State. Over many years the Board has consistently protected the public by setting standards for the practice of psychology, licensing psychologists, registering psychology associates, and receiving and resolving complaints promptly and efficiently.

The passing of this Bill will ensure the continuation of the Board's mandated responsibilities to carry out its mission to protect the citizens of Maryland without interruption. The Board

respectfully asks that the committee amends this legislation to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to ten years.

**Amendment 1**

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

The Board appreciates the Committees consideration and respectfully request a favorable outcome on SB 241 with amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact Lorraine Smith, Executive Director at, [Lorraine.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:Lorraine.smith@maryland.gov) or at 410-764-4786 if you have any questions.

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