



## 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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

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