



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

March 27, 2024

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

**RE: House Bill 1327– Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 1327– Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee.

House Bill 1327 (HB 1327) establishes the Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee within the Department to study whether the current health occupations licensing and certification system adequately regulates the body altering aesthetics industry in the State. It also requires the Advisory Committee to examine whether it is in the best interest of the State to mandate a national certification or establish a state regulatory entity to certify health care professionals that participate in the body altering aesthetic industry in the State.

The Department understands the desire to study the newly defined field of body altering aesthetics. However, the Department notes that the assigned roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee - including the identification and appointment of experts and health professionals in the body altering aesthetics industry and chairing and housing an advisory committee that will study health occupations licensing, certification, and regulation of the industry - include expertise that does not exist within the Department. The Department does not possess the requisite expertise nor resources in body altering aesthetics, and recommends the bill's duties be assigned to a more suitable entity with the required knowledge and skills to effectively perform those responsibilities.

The Department views the study objectives for the Advisory Committee and the focus on licensing and certification to be broad. The scope of study area established by HB 1327 for the Advisory Committee is expansive, and makes it difficult to identify appropriate expertise and resources to execute the study requirements. In addition, the breadth of health professional types included in the Advisory Committee creates a challenge in assigning staffing duties to a single board or professional type. The Department recommends narrowing the study scope and targeted objectives may be appropriate for an effective and efficient execution of HB 1327. The Department also notes

that all but one of the entities represented on the Committee are assigned a single seat; the Convalescent Synergistic Lymphatic Therapy Organization is allotted three representatives, 25% of total membership of the group.

Finally, the Department notes the expedited timeline in the bill, which requires an interim report in December 2024 and a final report in December of 2025. Due to the expansive scope of work mandated by HB 1327, the Department believes the stipulated timeframe will be difficult to meet in producing a final report and recommends an adjustment to the reporting deadlines.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Herrera Scott".

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