



**2024 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: SB 359 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

COMMITTEE: Senate – Finance Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

BILL ANALYSIS: SB 359 would enter into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact; establish criteria for participating states; establish the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators and its duties and powers; provide for the amendment of and withdrawal from the Compact; and provide that the Compact is contingent on the enacting of substantially similar legislation in six other states.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) strongly supports SB 359. Maryland’s entry into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact will benefit healthcare access across multiple settings of outpatient and hospital-based care. This agreement will make it easier for advanced practice nurses currently licensed in other states to shift some or all of their practice to Maryland.

Local health departments (LHDs) employ nurse practitioners to provide behavioral and reproductive health services. In many jurisdictions, advanced practice nurses provide most of the care, especially in rural counties designated as Healthcare Provider Shortage Areas.

We are all aware of the need to improve healthcare access almost everywhere in the state. APRNs provide care as diverse as primary care in pediatric offices to specialty care in hospital operating rooms. SB 359 will play a part in easing these shortages. Hospitals with staffing shortages in emergency departments will have a wider recruitment pool. It will also make it easier to staff telehealth needs in settings from LHDs and school-based health centers to private care provided in OB/GYN and other in-need medical specialty offices.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support for SB 359. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaioral@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*