



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Board of Environmental Health Specialists
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 222
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support

TITLE: State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Quorum, Examinations, and Apprenticeships

BILL ANALYSIS: This proposed legislation clarifies what constitutes a quorum to conduct Board business. It also gives the Board the authority to accept an approved apprenticeship program as an alternative to the experience requirement for an individual to be licensed. Additionally, it provides the Board with the authority to approve an examination provider to administer the licensing examination.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board of Environmental Health Specialists (the “Board”) supports SB 222.

This legislation provides the Board with some administrative flexibilities in conducting its operations in a streamlined manner (e.g. defining the board’s quorum and providing for the administration of the licensing examinations). In addition, SB 222 would provide the Board with the authority to accept approved apprenticeship programs. This authority will allow educational institutions to utilize and create a pathway for degree seeking students to gain not only the educational requirements, but also on-the-job-work needed to put graduates on a fast track to becoming Licensed Environmental Health Specialists (LEHS). Adding this provision to the Board’s statute is seen as an additional recruitment incentive for new hires and a benefit to agencies employing LEHS. It will enable an apprentice to practice under the supervision of a fully licensed specialist while obtaining the necessary education for licensure. Under the current statute, the Board is unable to recognize nor approve an apprentice program as a pathway for licensure. Currently, the required experience can only be obtained after a degree is conferred.

Thank you for considering this testimony. The Board of Environmental Health Specialists is requesting a favorable report on SB 222.

If you require additional information, please contact Matthew Cumers, Board Chair at 410-535-3922 or at matthew.cumers@maryland.gov; or James Merrow, Executive Director, at 410-764-3512 or at james.merrow@maryland.gov.

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