



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 359 -Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) strongly supports *Senate Bill 359 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurses*. Maryland was the first state to join the compact for registered nurses, called the Nurse Licensure Compact, because the state recognized the value of licensure reciprocity. The Nurse Licensure Compact has provided much needed flexibility to Maryland health care providers in recruiting and retaining nurses from other states. It is an essential tool for Maryland to manage the nursing professional shortage.

Under the APRN Compact, an APRN from another compact state could work in Maryland without having to face the long delays of getting a separate certification from the Maryland Board of Nursing. This means that APRNs could enter the health professional workforce in Maryland more quickly, and it would reduce the number of out-of-state applications our Board would have to process.

Maryland is facing a severe health care provider shortage in nearly every profession and every part of the state. Licensure compacts, including the APRN Compact, provide an avenue for the state to recruit more qualified practitioners. Maryland has already adopted licensure compacts for nurses, physicians, professional counselors, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists. Adoption of the APRN Compact would be consistent with the State’s direction on health professional compacts. This direction was endorsed by the Maryland Health Care Commission’s study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth.ⁱ

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/documents/ist/IST_HGO_rpt.pdf