



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Board of Dietetic Practice  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

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### 2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** SB 238  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**POSITION:** Support with Amendment

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**TITLE:** State Board of Dietetic Practice – Sunset Extension

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill, as written, would continue the State Board of Dietetic Practice (the “Board”) in accordance with the provision of Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) be extending the Board’s existence to July 1, 2028.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Board supports SB 238 with an amendment.

There are currently 2,893 active Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists. The Board has online licensure and renewals. The Board renews certification every two years. There are no outstanding licenses or renewals. In addition, online verifications are available on the Board’s website free of charge. The Board is special funded and does not receive any general funds.

The passing of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mission to protect the citizens of Maryland and to promote quality health care in the field of dietetics by licensing and regulating dietitians and nutritionists, receiving, and resolving complaints, and setting standards for the practice of dietetics.

The Board was established in 1985 and has historically received ten-year sunset extensions. The Board believes there will continue to be a need for Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists in Maryland, beyond three years and is respectfully requesting a ten-year extension for the Board. The State of Maryland has a 60 and over population that is rapidly growing, as well as significant portions of its population that are diagnosed with metabolic diseases, such as diabetes. These two public health challenges, and others like them, are directly aided by a strong and well-regulated workforce of Licensed Dietitians-Nutritionists. The Board is concerned that a shorter sunset

extension will discourage licensure candidates and therefore have a detrimental effect on Maryland's public health effort.

The Board supports SB 238 with amendment and respectfully asks to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

**Amendment 1**

Page 2, line 3: Strike **2028** and insert **2035**.

If you require additional information, please contact Marie Savage, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Dietetic Practice at (410) 764-4741 or [marie.savage@maryland.gov](mailto:marie.savage@maryland.gov).

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