



"Advocating for NPs since 1992"

Bill: SB 359 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Position: OPPOSE

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) advocates for the approximately 800 nurse practitioner members and the over 8,000 Nurse Practitioners licensed to practice in Maryland for policies and regulations that protect and enable nurse practitioners to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare.

We want an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. But NOT this one. We ARE the great State of Maryland. We strive for excellence. SB 359 fails to meet that standard. SB 359– Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact is inherently flawed. We are advocating for a compact that meets the needs of the Nurse Practitioners and the patients we serve. NCSBN, in its efforts to appease the requirements of all states, fails to meet the needs of most. The current version of the APRN Compact Bill demonstrates mediocrity for the following reasons:

Once the language in SB 359 passes, any amendments will be a herculean task.

SB359, p. 28, line 18-21 clearly states the following:

(F) (1) This Compact may be amended by the party states.

(2) An amendment to this Compact may not become effective and binding on the party states unless and until it is enacted into the laws of all party states.

SB 359 requires a prerequisite of 2080 work hours before a new APRN can join the compact. This is a barrier to practice to those who graduate from a Maryland Board of Nursing-approved program and pass a National Board Certification exam ready to enter the workforce to assist in meeting the unmet needs of the community they serve. Why is the APRN Compact turning these highly skilled providers away?

SB 359 stipulates the membership in the APRN Advisory Committee but fails to include membership by the Healthcare Professionals they plan to oversee. Why don't the Nurse Practitioners have seats at the table?

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc.
5372 Iron Pen Place Columbia, MD 21044
Office: 443-367-0277 Fax: 410-772-7915
www.npamonline.org NPAM@npedu.com

SB 359 does not address the need for full prescribing authority to allow the Nurse Practitioners to practice to the full extent of their knowledge, education, and experience. This is a disservice to our patients who are appropriately treated with medications in Maryland that cannot be prescribed unless they are physically present in the state of Maryland when the services are rendered. How does this improve access to care amongst neighboring states?

SB 359 fails endorsement by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners who are representing 121,000 Nurse Practitioners in the United State and who set the very standards by which all NPs in Maryland are required to adhere.

These are some of the many deficiencies in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) most recent version of the APRN Compact; the Compact that they have been trying to enact for the past TWENTY years. Your constituents deserve excellence, not mediocrity. We, the members of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, WANT a compact; but not this one.

I respectfully request that you give an unfavorable report. **OPPOSE SB 359 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact.**

Sincerely,

S. Dale G. Jafari

S. Dale G. Jafari, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP
President-elect
The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland