



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 137 – Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program - Workgroup

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 137 – Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program – Workgroup*. The bill creates a workgroup to study whether there should be an apprenticeship pathway for registered nurses.

MNA believes there is opportunity with the apprenticeship model for licensed practical nurses (LPN). There are some hybrid education-apprenticeship models for LPN education that should be thoroughly examined, as there might be federal funding available to support implementation. The bill includes the study of LPN apprenticeship models, which is aligned with another bill on nursing education: *SB 718 - Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment*.

MNA believes the higher education model is most appropriate for registered nurses. However, given all the discussion about apprenticeship models in general, we are pleased to be included on the workgroup. Last year after the hearing on SB 669, we worked with the sponsor in identifying who should be included in the discussion. We want to thank the sponsor for working with us and including the broader nursing and education communities in the workgroup as well. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.