



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 221 – Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification
COMMITTEE: Health & Government Operations
POSITION: Letter of Support

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill 221 – Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification (SB 221). SB 221 authorizes health occupations boards to establish license reciprocity for individuals licensed in other states or jurisdictions who meet certain conditions.

The Board understands the necessity of supporting a robust healthcare workforce to ensure that all Marylanders have access to safe and effective healthcare by qualified practitioners. In early 2023, pursuant to Health Occupations § 14-307(j), Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board entered into a reciprocity agreement for physician licensure with the medical boards in Virginia and the District of Columbia. This option has proved very popular, and in the first four months alone, the Board issued more than 80 licenses by reciprocity.

Based on the success of this reciprocity agreement, the Board has sought ways to expand the program, including working with other jurisdictions and establishing a reciprocity agreement for physician assistants. However, while the Board regulates 13 health occupations in total, current law only allows for license reciprocity for physicians and physician assistants. By opening up reciprocity to all health occupations, SB 221 would allow the Board to explore similar agreements for vital healthcare practitioners such as radiologic technologists and respiratory therapists.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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