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## MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



**DATE:** February 5, 2024

**BILL NO:** House Bill 0378 (SB0330)

**TITLE:** State Board of Dietetic Practice – Dietician-Nutritionists – Licensure Requirements

**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations (Senate: Finance Committee)

**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (MAND) represents about 900 Registered and Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists in the state. MAND appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 0378 (SB0330).

**MAND supports HB 0378 (SB 0330) with amendment(s).**

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) is the national credentialing body for Registered Dietitians. Starting January 1, 2024, CDR instituted new educational standards that would require all individuals credentialed as a dietitian on or after January 1, 2024 to hold a minimum of a Master’s degree (rather than only a baccalaureate degree). For clarity, individuals credentialed *on or prior to December 31, 2023* would be “grandfathered in” and would not be required to hold a Master’s degree.

MAND agrees the changes in educational standards enacted by the CDR will continue to elevate the standards of practice for current and future dietetic professionals. However, as HB 0378/SB 0330 is currently written, the individuals exempted from this rule by CDR (i.e. those “grandfathered in” who obtained their dietitian credential prior to January 1, 2024) would not be eligible to apply or renew their licensure. It is important that the Bill’s language reflects this exemption and also allows the necessary flexibility for the Board of Dietetic Practice to be able to adopt to the education and licensure standards as they evolve for this profession.

We believe a simple and concise approach will resolve these issues. Working with the Board of Dietetic practice we jointly crafted amendment language which addresses these concerns and we therefore request the following 4 amendments be made to both HB 0378 and its cross-file, SB 0330:

**AMENDMENT 1:**

Page 2, Line 11:

“2. Have received a **MINIMUM OF A** [~~baccalaureate~~]-~~MASTER’S~~ degree...”

**AMENDMENT 2:**

Page 2, Line 23:

“(ii) Submit to the Board proof of registration **AS A DIETITIAN** with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.”

**AMENDMENT 3:**

Page 3, Line 2:

“(2) Is registered to practice dietetics **AS A DIETITIAN** by the Commission on Dietetic...”

**AMENDMENT 4:**

Page 3, Line 13:

“2. Became registered **AS A DIETITIAN** by the Commission on Dietetic...”

We believe these 4 proposed amendments provide a simple, yet effective resolution to the concerns above. We thank you for your consideration and request a favorable report by supporting with amendment HB 0378 (SB 0330).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer Christman at [President@eatwellmd.org](mailto:President@eatwellmd.org).

Thank you for your consideration,

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