



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

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1327– Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1327– Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee. HB 1327 establishes the Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee (Committee) and charges the Department to staff and chair it. The Committee is required to study whether the current health occupations licensing and certification system adequately regulates the body altering aesthetics industry in the State. It also requires the Committee to examine certification and regulatory options for this industry.

The Department appreciates and understands the desire to study the newly defined area of the body altering aesthetics. However, the broad study mandates for the Committee make it difficult to identify the appropriate expertise required to execute such a study and staff the Committee. Moreover, it is unclear that, given both the broad mandate of the Committee and the focus on licensing and certification, if the Department is the best entity to administer this bill.

While much of the goals of the study seems to be similar to the work of a licensing board, the breadth of provider types included would preclude a single board taking over the staffing. We hope to work with the sponsor to better understand the goals of the Committee. Depending on these goals, a narrowed study scope and targeted study objectives may be appropriate to enable the Department or another office to effectively administer HB 1327.

Finally, the Department notes the expedited timeline in the bill, which requires an interim report in December 2024 and a final report in December of 2025. Due to the breadth of the scope of work the Department has some concerns of achieving a final report with recommendations in that timeframe.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary