



Board of Physicians

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

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 729 – Security Guards – Use of Force Reporting – Health Care–Related Physical Interventions
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
POSITION: Letter of Information

TITLE: Security Guards – Use of Force Reporting – Health Care–Related Physical Interventions

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting a letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 729 – Security Guards – Use of Force Reporting – Health Care–Related Physical Interventions.

SB 729 authorizes that health care-related interventions be performed on the premises of a health care facility. The bill further states that the interventions be under the direction of a “doctor” or nurse and be performed during the doctor’s or nurse’s employment. The Board would like to clarify the term “doctor” as stated on page 2, lines 1 and 2. The term “doctor,” as referenced in the bill, is not clearly defined and could be misconstrued to cover a wide range of individuals. The Board of Physicians itself licenses medical doctors, naturopathic doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine, etc.

A physician, as defined in Health Occupations §14–101, is an individual who practices medicine. The Board believes that as the bill is written, changing the term “doctor” to “physician” would further clarify and bring understanding to the information presented in the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, Maryland Board of Physicians, (410) 764-5042, and Oriell Harris, Health Policy Analyst Associate, OriellT.Harris@maryland.gov.

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