



Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 490 - State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups - Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill Senate Bill 490 - State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups - Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity Requirements*. The bill provides basic updates to Maryland's law on boards and other stakeholder bodies:

- Aligns membership requirements for the Board of Nursing with nearly all other health occupations and professional licensure boards. By removing the citizenship requirement, the bill will expand the number of experienced and qualified pool of applicants to serve on the Board. Many nurses from other countries have lived and worked in Maryland for a long-time. Their experience could add a valuable perspective to the Board; and
- Provides that appointments to boards, commissions, and stakeholder groups should be as diverse to the extent practicable. This provision reflects best practices in making appointments, as stakeholder groups should be reflective of their communities.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.