

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Bill: Senate Bill 72 - Health Occupations Boards - English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing

Committee: Senate Finance

Hearing Date: January 28, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) support *SB 72 – Health Occupation Boards – English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing*. The bill will streamline the licensure of nursing applicants by: 1) Providing more options for applicants to demonstrate English proficiency; and 2) Removing barriers for nurses with unencumbered licenses from compact states in obtaining Maryland licensure.

MASHN supports this legislation because it will attract qualified nurses to practice in Maryland. We continue to face a challenging nursing shortage in Maryland. The shortage has severe consequences for students in our school system. We do not have a nurse in every school. Instead, school nurses are stretched across several schools, making it challenging to meet the chronic and urgent health needs of students.

Maryland needs to take every reasonable step available to increase the number of qualified nurses. We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.