



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 174- Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

Position: *Support*

January 28, 2025

Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 174.

Maryland hospitals continue to face a critical staffing shortage. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. Licensure compacts streamline the process, eliminating barriers and enabling health care workers to begin their roles in Maryland more quickly.

Hospitals employ social workers to support behavioral health patients and other vulnerable populations through case management, care coordination, and much more. Patients who face barriers transitioning out of the hospital to the next level of care—whether home or another setting—often rely on social workers to support them during this process. Pediatric patients experiencing hospital overstay rely on social workers to advocate for resources and support. As such, social workers provide invaluable care in their communities, as well as counsel and support to families whose loved ones are receiving health care services.

The [Social Work Licensure Compact](#) has reached activation status because it has been enacted in at least seven states. Maryland's participation in this compact could help alleviate the strain on our current workforce and help build a future pipeline.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 174.

For more information, please contact:
Jane Krienke, Director, Government Affairs & Policy
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org