



Board of Physicians

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

2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 67
TITLE: Health Occupations Boards - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Support with Amendments

TITLE: Health Occupations Boards - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support with Amendments for Senate Bill 67 (SB 67) – Health Occupations Boards – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits. SB 67 would authorize health occupation boards to create a process for including a notation of veteran status on a license, certificate, or registration. The bill would also require health occupation boards to electronically share relevant applicant information with the appropriate executive branch agencies to help determine eligibility for state or federal veterans' benefits.

The Board is fully committed to supporting the veteran community in any way that is within the Board's mission. The Board believes SB 67 offers a valuable tool for the recognition of veterans who hold a health occupation license. The Board can identify “veteran status” on a Practitioner’s Public Profile, which is also the source of any verification of licensure. However, the Board does not currently have the resources to serve as a primary source verifier of an applicant’s eligibility for veteran benefits. In addition, other agencies currently do not accept a license issued by the Board as a primary source verification of an applicant’s military service or eligibility for veterans' benefits.

The Board respectfully proposes that SB 67 be amended by striking lines 6 through 12 and 13 through 23 on page 2 of the bill, as certifying an applicant's eligibility for veterans benefits is not operationally feasible or consistent with the role of the board. Striking this language would also ensure that the responsibility for verifying an applicant's eligibility for veteran benefits falls to agencies better equipped to handle such determinations for all military members, not just those in a health occupation profession. The Board remains supportive of the bill's goal. The Board stands ready to collaborate with its sponsors and proponents to further improve the licensure process for service members, veterans, and military spouses. For these reasons, the Physicians Board respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 67 with the amendments below.

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 67

- On page 1, in line 19, strike “OR REGISTRATION” and substitute “REGISTRATION, OR PUBLIC PROFILE.”

- On page 2, in lines 6 through 12, strike:

“(2) INDICATE THAT THE APPLICANT CONSENTS TO:

(i) HAVING A NOTATION ON THE APPLICANT'S LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR REGISTRATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN; AND

(ii) BEING CONTACTED BY APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES REGARDING THE APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE AND FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS.”

and substitute:

“(2) INDICATE THAT THE APPLICANT CONSENTS TO HAVING A NOTATION ON THE APPLICANT'S LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION, OR PUBLIC PROFILE INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN.”

- On page 2, in lines 13 through 23, strike:

“(C) IF AN APPLICANT PRESENTS THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND CONSENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD SHALL:

(1) INCLUDE ON THE APPLICANT'S LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION A NOTATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN; AND

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 4-305 THROUGH 4-325 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE LAW, AND ON REQUEST FROM AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY, ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICANT RELEVANT TO DETERMINING THE APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE OR FEDERAL VETERANS BENEFITS.”

and substitute:

“(C) IF AN APPLICANT PRESENTS THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND CONSENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD SHALL INCLUDE ON THE APPLICANT'S LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION OR PUBLIC PROFILE A NOTATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VETERAN.”

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact:

Michael Tran
Health Policy Analyst
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Singh Ajrawat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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