



## Maryland Community Health System

**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

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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 72 - Health Occupations Boards - English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing*.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that provide primary care, behavioral, and dental services to underserved communities. Our mission has been hampered by the ongoing shortage of nurses, which is not expected to abate.<sup>i</sup> This legislation offers a strategy to allow Maryland to better utilize the nursing workforce in other states. The legislation streamlines the licensure process for nurses by:

- **Endorsement for Nurses from Compact States:** While the compact allows nurses from compact states to practice over state lines in Maryland, nurses must still get a Maryland license if they move to Maryland. Under the bill, the licensure process for nurses from compact would be streamlined. The out-of-state nurse would not have to submit cumbersome paperwork on their educational background.
- **More options to demonstrate English Proficiency:** Maryland law currently provides very limited options for nurses to prove their English proficiency. The bill expand options for demonstrating English proficiency.

We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://mhaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Maryland-Nurse-Workforce-Projections-GlobalData.pdf>