



Committee: Senate Finance

Bill Number: Senate Bill 72 – Health Occupation Boards – English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing

Hearing Date: January 28, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *Senate Bill 71 – Health Occupation Boards – English Proficiency Requirements and Licensure by Endorsement for Nursing*. The bill supports Maryland’s efforts to address the nursing shortage including:

- Streamlining the licensure process for qualified nurses with unencumbered out-of-state licenses. For nurses who are already licensed in a Compact state, the bill would remove unnecessary paperwork and administrative burdens for licensure in Maryland; and
- Providing more flexible options for nurses to demonstrate English proficiency.

MASBHC is concerned about the impact of the nursing shortage of school-based health centers (SBHCs) and school health programs. The nursing shortage impacts the ability of SBHCs and school health programs to meet the needs of their students. A growing number of students have chronic diseases, as demonstrated by a finding of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that 25% of children between the ages 2 and 8 have a chronic condition such as asthma or obesity.ⁱ We support legislation that will help Maryland recruit and retain more people into nursing.

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

ⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/chronic_conditions/pdfs/2017_02_15-how-schools-can-students-with-chc_final_508.pdf