

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle Chair, Finance Committee 3E Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0067 – Health Occupations Boards – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill ("SB") 0067 titled "Health Occupations Boards – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits)."

The Board is supportive of efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families. However, the Board advises that implementation of the proposed legislation would result in costs associated with changes to its licensing software, and may delay the processing of applications submitted by veterans in order to obtain the necessary documentation and consent. Furthermore, in the event that the Board is contacted by any veterans benefit agency for information necessary to provide benefits as set forth in the bill, the Board would currently be able to provide such information without this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. For more information, please contact Julie Gaskins, Legislative Liaison, at 410-764-4709 or julie.gaskins2@maryland.gov, or Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director, at 410-764-4753 or deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.

Executive Director