



Board of Nursing

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

January 28th, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
Room 3
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 Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for SB0067 Health Occupations Boards - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits.

While the Board is supportive of the legislature's efforts to improve the lives of veterans in our state, and believes that nurses who have served in our armed forces should be recognized for their service, it is currently out of the scope of the Board to serve as a primary source for verification of veteran benefit eligibility. As the bill is currently written, the Board would be required to create a system to verify veteran status and communicate said status with other executive agencies. At this time, the Board has neither the expertise nor the capacity for such a function, and should the bill pass, would need to hire on additional staff and take on additional IT costs to comply. That said, the Board is supportive of the goals of this bill, and would be happy to work with legislators to improve the licensure process for nurse veterans.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Christine Lechliter
Board President

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