

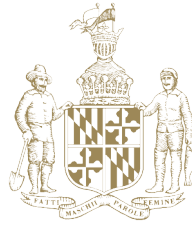
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Howard County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations  
and Health Facilities

Public Health and  
Minority Health Disparities



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**SUPPORT – HB534 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact**

February 18, 2025

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

**HB534** enters Maryland into the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact. developed by the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB).

The AADB Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact facilitates expedited licensure for dentists and dental hygienists, allowing professionals to practice across participating states while maintaining high standards of public safety. It streamlines the licensing process by creating a centralized system for credential verification, ensuring consistency in licensure requirements, and enhancing mobility for professionals, including active-duty military personnel and their spouses. Member states retain the authority to regulate dental practice and impose disciplinary actions, while a shared clearinghouse improves communications and oversight. The compact promotes access to dental care, reduces administrative burdens, and strengthens collaboration among state dental boards. It was developed as an alternative to another, slightly older, national compact that dental professionals in many states have found to be objectionable in key ways.

If **HB534** were to pass, and contingent on the enactment of substantially similar legislation in four other states, Maryland would be a founding state and thus granted a seat on the Compact Licensure Commission.

**HB534** establishes

- (1) specified procedures and requirements for a licensed dental professional to practice under a **compact LICENSE privilege** in a member state;
- (2) the composition, powers, and responsibilities of the Commission; and
- (3) requirements related to the oversight, dispute, resolution, and enforcement of the compact.

The attached document outlines the distinctions between the Compact represented in this bill and that specified in the in the alternative legislation and developed by National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council of State Governments (CSG).

As dental workforce shortages continue to strain access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas, this compact creates a pathway to recruit and retain qualified professionals across state lines. This is critical to addressing the oral health needs of Marylanders and ensuring equitable access to essential services. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on **HB534**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill".