



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill (HB) 256 – Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 256 - Health Occupations Boards - Membership Alteration and Sunset Extensions – Letter of Support.

HB 256 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board of Pharmacy to July 1, 2030. The bill will also extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the following Boards to July 1, 2031: The Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists, The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and The Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee within the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. Additionally, the bill will add two new members to the Massage Therapy Board, one member who is a licensed massage therapist, and one who is a consumer. Health Occupations Boards are mandated by the General Assembly to protect the public health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Maryland. Extending the termination provisions of these boards will ensure they can continue to fulfill their responsibilities such as credentialing and licensing qualified and competent professionals, and disciplining licensed professionals found to have violated their respective rules of conduct.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Health respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB 256. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary