



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1199 - Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians

Date: March 11, 2025

Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) is submitting this letter of information on *House Bill 1199 – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians*. We understand that the intent of the bill is to identify pathways for more expeditious licensure of qualified international trained physicians (ITPs) by the Board of Physicians.

We want to ensure that all licensed healthcare practitioners, including physicians, meet educational, experience, and examination standards that are substantially equivalent to Maryland’s requirements. There are unique challenges in demonstrating these standards have been met for internationally-trained clinicians. For physicians, it is particularly challenging to demonstrate equivalency to U.S. residency experience requirements.

On February 4, 2025, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) released a report to inform legislation on licensure of internationally trained physicians.ⁱ We wanted to highlight this report, as it may provide recommendations for the Maryland General Assembly to consider. We noted that FSMB is still in the process of developing framework for verifying that ITPs meet U.S. residency requirements.

We wanted to note that the FSMB report does not address the question about collaboration of ITP and physician assistants. We believe this question needs more discussion and the involvement of the physician assistant community. MdAPA requests to be part of this discussion, and we volunteer to bring different members of the physician assistant community together to provide input.

If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/communications/acalm-guidance.pdf>