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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
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Public Health and
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SUPPORT

HB514 - HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS – REVISIONS

February 18, 2025

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

HB514 updates provisions of law governing the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the practice of chiropractic in Maryland, including updates to Board membership, licensure, disciplinary actions, and license denials; authorizes office inspections under certain circumstances; and requires licensees or applicants to undergo health examinations when necessary. These changes are important to improve efficiency and promote public safety, professional accountability, and modernized standards for the profession.

This legislation, cross-filed with SB0052, ensures the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners has the tools and authority to adapt to evolving healthcare needs while maintaining high standards of patient care. The bill's provisions will take effect on **July 1, 2025**, pending passage.

Key Provisions and Benefits:

1. **Modernizing Board Membership:** The bill expands eligibility for Board membership by permitting licensed chiropractors to self-nominate with peer endorsements, broadening access to qualified and diverse leadership.
2. **Strengthening Licensing Pathways:** Simplifying licensing requirements and introducing a temporary licensure pathway for new graduates and out-of-state practitioners reduces barriers for qualified chiropractors, supporting workforce growth and mobility.
3. **Introducing Preceptorships:** Preceptorships for chiropractic students offer hands-on clinical training opportunities, ensuring future practitioners are well-prepared to meet patient needs and uphold professional standards.
4. **Enhanced Oversight and Accountability:** The bill authorizes unannounced inspections of chiropractic offices when complaints of noncompliance with CDC health guidelines are filed. Additionally, it empowers the Board to require health evaluations for licensees or applicants suspected of being unfit to practice safely.
5. **Robust Disciplinary Measures:** Expanded disciplinary authority and increased penalties for violations reinforce public safety and professional accountability, ensuring patients' trust in the quality of chiropractic care in Maryland.

Chiropractic care is a vital component of Maryland's healthcare system. However, outdated regulations limit the Board's ability to ensure patient safety, streamline licensing, and support professional development. Cybersecurity, public health standards, and the integration of clinical training require urgent attention in today's healthcare landscape.

For Maryland to lead in promoting safe, effective, and modern chiropractic care while safeguarding public health, I ask for a favorable report on **HB 514**.

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