



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request **FAVORABLE Report** – HB0045 – Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0045 – Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact**, sponsored by Delegate Heather Bagnall. This bill would enter Maryland into the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact that was developed by the Council of State Governments (CSG) in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA) to support the mobility of licensed dentists and dental hygienists.

By passing HB0045, Maryland can join ten other states that have enacted this compact. This compact will benefit practitioners by:

- Facilitating mobility for licensees.
- Easing the burden of applying for and maintaining multiple licenses.
- **Supporting relocating military spouses and families, a key goal of the MMC.**
- Improves continuity of care.

The compact will benefit Maryland's State Board of Dental Examiners by:

- Reducing its administrative burden.
- Creating a compact information system that supports the facilitation of licensure and discipline information for dentists and dental hygienists.
- Allowing the board to retain jurisdiction over licensees practicing in Maryland.

The compact will benefit Maryland by:

- **Enhancing public safety** through a shared interstate data system of licensure and disciplinary information, allowing for rapid verification of licensure status and cooperation with other states.
- **Preserving Maryland's state sovereignty.**

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The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB0045** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report. Enacting this compact is in line with the DoD's commitment to supporting military spouses as an essential component of supporting military families. The MMC believes, as does the DoD, that interstate compacts are the best solution for occupational license portability for military spouses.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Delegate Bagnall for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Dragics". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars