

SUPPORT: HB602 State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act)

1/31/2025

Maryland Senate
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lindsay Ward and I am a primary care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner living in and working in AACO. I am writing today to express my support of HB 602 State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act).

Last year the MGA passed the SB221/HB146, Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification bill authorizing certain health occupations boards to adopt regulations establishing reciprocity for individuals licensed or certified in another state. SB 407 State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act) bill has been introduced as a follow up to the reciprocity bill with the goal of increasing access to qualified advanced nursing professionals, enhancing licensure portability, and ease of telehealth access in Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions.

The bill would allow the Maryland Board of Nursing (the “Board”) to initiate discussions with nursing licensing boards in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia to pursue reciprocity agreements for advanced practice nursing licensure and specialty certification.


Additionally, the bill would allow the Maryland Board of Nursing to facilitate the establishment of mutual and reciprocal licensure recognition arrangements, with the goal of increasing access to qualified advanced nursing professionals, enhancing licensure portability, and ease of telehealth access in Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions.

Finally, the bill would require the Board of Nursing to submit a report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee annually. This report shall include:

- The current status of reciprocity discussions with each state;
- Any agreements reached and their terms;
- Challenges encountered in negotiations; and
- Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes, if necessary, to facilitate reciprocity.

As a practicing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) who provides care to patients up through their college years, once reciprocity is adopted by the BON it would enable me to quickly obtain licensure in another state. This would allow me to maintain continuity of care for my patients when they attend school out-of-state. Presently, I can only see patients while they are physically in Maryland. I respectfully request an favorable report on HB 602 State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act).

Sincerely,



Lindsay J. Ward CRNP, RN, IBCLC, MSN, BSN
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner- Pediatric Primary Care