



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

State Board of Acupuncture  
State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid  
Dispensers, Speech/Language Pathologists &  
Music Therapists  
State Board of Chiropractic Examiners  
State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators  
State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners  
State Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors  
State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice  
State Board of Examiners in Optometry  
State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners  
State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists  
State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
State Board of Social Work Examiners  
State Commission on Kidney Disease  
4201 Patterson Avenue, Third Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21215

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 231 – Constitutional Amendment – Fee or Tax Rate Increases – Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act) – Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The State Board of Acupuncture, the State Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech/Language Pathologists & Music Therapists, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators, the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors, the State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, the State Board of Examiners in Optometry, the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, the State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists, the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the State Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Commission on Kidney Disease is submitting this Letter of Concern for HB 231 – Constitutional Amendment – Fee or Tax Rate Increases – Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act).

Currently, the health occupations Boards and Commission have the authority to set fees based on various health occupation statutes. It is unclear how HB 231 will impact that authority.

The Boards and Commission support transparency in the setting of fees. Fees are established in regulations, and there is already a public process in the State government for this. The Boards' and Commission's internal process ensures additional transparency. This includes discussions in open public meetings, postings on the Boards' and Commission's website, and stakeholders are consulted.

Most Boards are special-funded and rely on licensure fees to fund their operations. Any potential delays to the already established process could have a significant negative impact on the Boards and Commission and their ability to function.

For more information, please contact Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for Health Occupations Boards & Commissions, at 443-794-4757 or [lillian.reese@maryland.gov](mailto:lillian.reese@maryland.gov).

Respectfully,

The State Acupuncture Board

The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists and Music Therapists

The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

The State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators

The State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

The State Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors

The State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

The State Board of Examiners in Optometry

The State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

The State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners

The State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists

The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

The State Board of Social Work Examiners

The State Commission on Kidney Disease

*The opinion of the Boards and Commission expressed in this letter of concern does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*