



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

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Spring Grove Hospital Center - Benjamin Rush Bldg.
55 Wade Ave/Tulip Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: HB 231 - Constitutional Amendment – Fee or Tax Rate Increases – Yea and Nay Vote of
General Assembly Required – Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of concern for HB 231 – Constitutional Amendment – Fee or Tax Rate Increases – Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required. The bill proposes an addition to the Maryland Constitution which would provide that an increase of a State fee or the rate of a State tax, including an alteration of the rate of an existing tax based on inflation or formula, may not take effect and shall be deemed null and void unless the General Assembly, by a yea and nay vote, explicitly approves the increased fee or tax rate.

The Board does not regularly increase its fees but historically, because of increased operating costs, has done so to maintain solvency. The Board’s most recent fee increase was over 12 years ago. Any proposed fee increases are accomplished through the regulatory process. When a fee increase is proposed, it is done so at an open session meeting where the public is present. Once approved by the Board it is vetted through a process at the Department of Health where it undergoes a thorough analysis before approval by the Secretary of Health. The proposal is then submitted to the Governor’s Office and the Administrative and Executive Legislative Review Committee (AELR) of the General Assembly. Once approved or amended, the proposal is printed in the Maryland Register with a 30-day comment period. The Board responds to any comments received.

The Board is concerned that the additional step of requiring submission to the General Assembly would result in proposals taking well in excess of a year to gain final approval. The Board believes that the existing process for vetting and substantiating any fee increases is sufficient to ensure that any increases are justified and not excessive.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 202-997-2606; chiyo.alie@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this letter of concern does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.

Sincerely,
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.
Board President

