



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2025 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 231 - Constitutional Amendments - Fee or Tax Rate Increases - Yea and Nay
COMMITTEE: Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act)
POSITION: Ways and Means
Letter of Information

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is respectfully submitting this Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 231 - Constitutional Amendments - Fee or Tax Rate Increases - Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act). HB 231 would require a vote in the General Assembly before a fee or tax can be increased.

Currently, the Board has the authority to set fees based on the various health occupation statutes. It is unclear how HB 231 impacts that authority. The Board requests clarification on how HB 231 impacts existing statutory authority to set fees.

The Board supports transparency in the setting of fees. Fees are typically established in regulations, and there is already a public process in the State government for regulations (State Government, § 10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland) to ensure transparency. The Board's internal regulation process also ensures additional transparency. It is standard that draft regulations are discussed at public Board meetings, posted to the Board's website to solicit public comment, and stakeholders are consulted.

In addition, the Board rarely increases existing fees and has implemented a fee reduction for its licensees for the last four fiscal years.

The Board is also concerned about the vote being delayed or not occurring. For example, if a new licensure group was established and the General Assembly did not vote on the fee, would the Board be required to issue licenses without a fee? The Board is special-funded and uses licensure fees to fund its operations (Health Occupations, § 14-207, Annotated Code of Maryland). The potential inability to set fees as needed could have a significant negative fiscal impact on the Board and its ability to function.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Madeline DelGreco, Health Policy Analyst, 410-764-5053.

Sincerely,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.