

SB 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief Service Members

Uploaded by: Christa McGee

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports Senate Bill 242, which would allow an active-duty service member or military spouse to provide real estate brokerage services in Maryland under their out-of-state license for the duration of their military orders. To use this pathway, an applicant must apply to the Maryland Real Estate Commission with proof of orders, along with a notarized affidavit confirming good standing in all jurisdictions where the individual is licensed and the absence of disciplinary actions or pending investigations. Military spouses must also provide documentation of the marriage.

Military families are often required to relocate on short notice, and qualified military spouses should not face unnecessary delays in continuing their careers. A streamlined process helps these households maintain employment and financial stability while still requiring applicants to demonstrate professional accountability and agree to comply with Maryland requirements.

To better assist these licensees, the Maryland Real Estate Commission should develop and share practical guidance materials for individuals practicing under this pathway. Real estate brokerage practices are governed heavily by state law, and compliance depends on understanding Maryland specific requirements from the start. By doing so, military licensees can avoid inadvertent violations of Maryland laws and better serve their new clients.

For these reasons, Maryland REALTORS® respectfully requests a favorable report.

For more information contact
lisa.may@mdrealtor.org or christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org

Maryland Military Coalition SB0242 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill adds a new section to Article – State Government and amends the same Article plus 15 others in the Maryland Code (“the Code”) resulting in making the Code synonymous with the provisions of 50 USC § 4025 a., Portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses, which was added in 2023 and updated by the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Civil Rights Division in December 2025.

By adding Subtitle 14A. Licensing – Active Service Members and Spouses to Article – State Government, this bill provides for the recognition of professional licenses and certificates issued by other jurisdictions to servicemembers or spouses of servicemembers who have relocated to Maryland pursuant to military orders or eligible veterans, providing the licensee remains in good standing with the issuing authority and any other issuing authority that has issued a similar license to the licensee as well as meeting the standards of practice for the relevant profession. In addition, if the licensee is able to practice in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate compact, the provisions of that compact apply.

SB0242 is another positive step in the modernization of the Maryland Code, that began during the 2025 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, that will primarily benefit those currently serving in uniform. For the servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember, enacting this bill will make it easier to transfer their license when they relocate to Maryland. In the case of the

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – SB0242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

spouse, it will help in obtaining employment more quickly upon relocation. This aspect of the bill is key to battling persistent unemployment rates and the prevalence of underemployment, as “military spouse employment” continues to be the top issue of concern for active-duty spouses.² Per the December 22, 2025 DOJ Notification Letter, “Spousal unemployment is a leading cause of servicemembers leaving military service and is a significant readiness and retention issue.”³

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0242** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

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. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

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

Respectfully,



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

² *Strengthening Military Families Amid Global Challenges, Comprehensive Report, 2024*, at <https://bluestarfam.org/research/mfls-survey-release-2025/#reports>

³ <https://www.justice.gov/servicemembers/media/1421601/dl?inline>, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Notification Letter, December 22, 2025, Subject: Update to Professional License Portability for Servicemembers and Their Spouses



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

SB242_Favorable_Report_Request_Dr_Cross.pdf

Uploaded by: Dr Cashenna A Cross

Position: FAV

Favorable Report Requested

Senate Bill 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act modernizes Maryland’s occupational and professional licensing framework for active service members, their spouses, and eligible veterans. The bill authorizes qualifying individuals to practice in Maryland under a valid out-of-state license during the duration of military orders, provided the license is in good standing and no disciplinary action is pending.

It establishes a new Subtitle 14A in the State Government Article, creates a uniform application and verification process, allows temporary licensure when verification exceeds 30 days, and expands eligibility definitions for veterans. The bill harmonizes licensing recognition across multiple State codes while preserving regulatory oversight and public safety safeguards.

For municipalities and communities, this legislation strengthens workforce continuity and reduces administrative barriers caused by military relocation. For these reasons, a favorable report is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Cashenna A. Cross
City Councilwoman-at-Large, Glenarden
Municipal Advocate
571-719-8784

MSCA SB 242 FAV 2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Jocelyn Collins

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment; Finance

Bill Number: Senate Bill 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Hearing Date: February 12, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA) respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 242. MSCA represents professional school counselors across Maryland who provide essential academic, career, and social-emotional support to students in public schools statewide.

Senate Bill 242 is needed to address the growing disconnect between Maryland’s student mental health needs, workforce shortages, and licensure and renewal frameworks that—while well-intentioned—can create unnecessary delays, duplication, and financial burdens. The bill is particularly important because it addresses not only initial licensure portability, but also licensure renewal requirements that can unintentionally impede qualified school counselors from continuing to serve Maryland students during temporary or involuntary relocations.

Why Senate Bill 242 Is Needed

School counselors are often the **first mental health professionals a student sees**, and they play a central role in identifying needs, responding to crises, and coordinating supports for students and families. When counselor positions remain vacant—or when qualified counselors are delayed or discouraged from practicing due to administrative or duplicative licensure and renewal requirements—students lose access to critical services.

Under current law, military-connected school counselors licensed and practicing in good standing in another state may face uncertainty or delay not only in initial authorization to practice, but also with respect to **Maryland-specific licensure renewal requirements that were not designed for temporary or involuntary relocations**. Senate Bill 242 addresses this problem by ensuring that licensure portability functions as intended across

professions, including education, and by providing limited relief from renewal requirements that would otherwise apply during a counselor's period of authorization under this military portability statute.

In doing so, Senate Bill 242 ensures that qualified school counselors can continue working without interruption while preserving Maryland's long-term certification standards.

Impact on School Counselors

As a result of Senate Bill 242, school counselors who relocate to Maryland due to military orders may be authorized to practice under the licensure portability provisions established in § 10-14A-03 of the State Government Article. This allows qualified school counselors licensed and practicing in good standing in other states to begin working in Maryland schools without unnecessary delay while their Maryland credentials are under review.

School counselors are explicitly addressed in the Education Article rather than the general occupational licensing provisions. Senate Bill 242 amends Education Article § 6-704.1(a) to include the following language:

“THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SCHOOL COUNSELING IN THE STATE UNDER § 10-14A-03 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.”

This targeted amendment clarifies that school counselors practicing under this military licensure portability law are not subject to Maryland-specific renewal training requirements during the period of authorization, ensuring consistency and preventing unintended barriers unique to the profession.

The Central Role of School Counselors in Student Mental Health

School counselors are a critical component of the school-based behavioral health team and are **the only professionals charged with monitoring the needs of all students in a school**, not just those already identified for services.

According to the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), school counselors:

- Recognize mental health warning signs;
- Provide short-term counseling and crisis intervention related to mental health or situational concerns such as grief or difficult transitions; and
- Coordinate care with other behavioral health professionals when longer-term or more intensive services are needed.

In addition to direct services, school counselors advocate for the mental health needs of all students by delivering instruction that promotes mental health awareness, providing appraisal and advisement addressing academic, career, and social/emotional

development, and implementing statewide initiatives such as **Start Talking Maryland** lessons.

Current Duplicative and Financially Burdensome Renewal Requirements

School counselors are among the few educator licensure areas subject to additional, profession-specific renewal requirements. Effective July 1, 2016, Maryland required school counselors to complete specialized training related to recognizing and responding to indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse. This requirement was enacted through House Bill 947, commonly known as **Lauryn’s Law**.

Lauryn’s Law requires school counselors to complete **15 Continuing Education Units (15 clock hours)** or **one semester hour of academic coursework** every five years as part of the certificate renewal cycle. The Maryland State Department of Education has acknowledged that these competencies can already be earned through the **90 Professional Development Points (PDPs)** required for renewal, making the requirement duplicative for many counselors.

In addition, the option to complete one semester hour of academic coursework can be **financially burdensome**, as tuition and fees are borne by individual counselors. These costs present a real barrier in a profession already facing recruitment and retention challenges.

Regulatory Context and Consistency

On January 28, 2025, the State Board of Education adopted amendments to COMAR 13A.12 that preserved the Lauryn’s Law requirement while allowing limited flexibility through the Senior Educator Waiver when requested by an employing district. This update reflects MSDE’s recognition that renewal requirements should be applied flexibly in narrowly defined circumstances.

Senate Bill 242 applies that same principle of **targeted, temporary flexibility** to military service members and their spouses—ensuring that counselors who are already licensed, trained, and practicing in good standing are not subject to unnecessary duplication or financial burden during a temporary or involuntary relocation.

Workforce Shortages and Student Equity

The need for Senate Bill 242 must be understood in the broader context of Maryland’s ongoing student support workforce shortages and unresolved equity challenges.

On August 26, 2025, the Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE) voted to adopt the Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) updated Strategic Plan. That plan set a goal of increasing the percentage of schools with at least **2.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) student support professionals**, including school counselors, school social workers,

school psychologists, student personnel workers, mental health professionals, career counselors, and behavioral interventionists.

While this approach may expand access to student services, it falls short of the **Blueprint for Maryland's Future's clear intent** to ensure adequate access to school counselors specifically. A more targeted student-to-school-counselor ratio metric—originally discussed at the June 25, 2024 joint meeting of MSBE and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB)—was never resolved.

Although MSDE initially included a student-to-counselor ratio metric in its May 2025 draft Strategic Plan, that metric was ultimately removed and replaced with the broader 2.0 FTE student support professional measure. This change eliminated a key accountability safeguard at a time when Maryland remains far from the nationally recognized **250:1 student-to-school-counselor benchmark**.

Currently, the statewide average student-to-counselor ratio is approximately **307:1**, with some districts exceeding **1,000 students per counselor**. These disparities represent a significant equity crisis that disproportionately harms students in high-need schools and communities.

Despite ongoing advocacy from MSCA, on September 30, 2025, the Accountability and Implementation Board and the Maryland State Board of Education voted to adopt the 2.0 FTE student support professional metric as part of the Strategic Plan update. During that joint meeting, AIB Chair Ike Leggett explicitly acknowledged the inequities in student access to school counselors reflected in current ratios.

In this context, reducing unnecessary licensure and renewal barriers is not merely an administrative concern—it is a workforce and equity imperative. Senate Bill 242 addresses a specific, solvable barrier by ensuring that qualified military-connected school counselors can enter and remain in Maryland's education workforce without delay during temporary or involuntary relocations.

Conclusion

Senate Bill 242 is a pragmatic, narrowly tailored response to a documented workforce, equity, and student mental health challenge. By addressing both licensure portability and renewal requirements for military-connected school counselors, the bill strengthens Maryland's education workforce while preserving appropriate professional standards.

For these reasons, MSCA respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 242.

If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Collins at jcollins@policypartners.net.

SB 242 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 242 – SCRA Modernization

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 242.

Let me say after a lot of work, collaboration and communication, this SCRA Modernization legislation is consensus legislation.

This was a massive comprehensive effort, and I want to thank all involved, especially the DLS drafting team.

In fact, this effort started drafting way back in June as DLS chose this bill to help train new drafters!

I worked with so many, including the:

- Department of *Veterans and Military Families*
- Department of *Health and all their Boards*
- Department of *Labor*
- Department of *Environment*
- Department of *Agriculture*
- Department of *Transportation*
- Department of *Natural Resources*
- Department of *Education*
- Department of *Public Safety and Correctional Services*
- *The Maryland Insurance Administration*
- The Maryland Bar Association
- The Public Service Commission
- The Maryland Association of Realtors
- Accountability and Implementation Board, and
- Numerous Military Advocacy groups

Out of respect to the committee's time, I asked most to provide written testimony.

The federal *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act*, known as SCRA, is designed to ease financial and legal burdens on active-duty members during deployment.

There have been significant revisions over the years, such as:

- **1940 (SSCRA):** Congress passed the original SSCRA to protect soldiers, sailors, and Marines from financial hardship during active duty.
- **2003 (SCRA):** The SCRA completely revised the 1940 Act to provide modern legal protection for deployed Reservists and National Guard members.
- **2009 - The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act** helped spouses maintain their home state residency for tax purposes.
- **2010:** The *Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act* extended mortgage protection periods.
- **2022:** Amendments under the *Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act* of 2022 further updated the protections.

Which brings us back to this SB 242 that updates Maryland law to be compliant with the 2023 and 2024 SCRA federal revisions.

In January 2023, the federal SCRA was significantly updated for all states to incorporate changes regarding the portability of occupational licenses for active service members and their spouses.

There were additional changes made in 2024 and signed into law by President Biden.

However, three years later, Maryland law has not been updated with these important revisions; therefore, this bill primarily revises Maryland law to be compliant with the latest SCRA revisions.

Practically speaking, these changes will be transformative for service members and their spouses when moving into our state.

This bill does 4 main things:

1. Primarily it revises our Maryland laws so they are compliant with federal SCRA requirements found in 50 USC §4025a. Service members and their spouses transferred on military orders will be able to use their home state occupational license and no longer be required to obtain a Maryland license if they meet certain requirements. They will now go through a registration process that ensures they are able to practice in our state. This will be tremendously helpful for service members and their spouses to start working in our state. There is a set of requirements that must be met, such as, having a valid license in their home state, be in good standing, proof they are in the Uniformed Services on military orders, they will comply with Maryland's licensing requirements and scope of practice, etc.
2. Additionally, the Maryland expedited licensing process will be used for service members and their spouses if they want to practice in Maryland and obtain a license in an area that they currently don't hold a license.

Example: Transfer to Maryland and have a Massage license, but they are training to be a nurse. While in Maryland they finish their education and want to practice in Maryland. Since they didn't have a license already, they don't qualify under the SCRA process, but can still get an expedited process for a Maryland license.
3. This bill expands helping our veterans and spouses get expedited licenses in health, education and financial areas to match what was done in the Business Regulations in 2019. *[Died or discharged window of 1 year removed]*
4. Finally, it updates old Federal references to SCRA in the *Public Safety and Real Property* Articles.

Background Info: The SCRA reference location in federal law has changed. The change was simply moving the language from the Appendix of Title 50 to be in

the Code itself within Title 50. SCRA is now contained in 50 USCA 3901 through 4043.

I could go into much greater detail, but the bottom line – this will get Maryland into Compliance with Federal law.

This is very important for several reasons, but one is that other states have been sued on behalf of our service members by the Department of Justice for not complying. Additionally, this is a major improvement for the quality of life for our service members and their spouses.

This bill takes great strides in making Maryland an even better place for our Uniformed Services members and their families.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

DVMF SB242 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY**

**Senate Bill 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
SUPPORT**

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department supports Senate Bill 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

Senate Bill 242 updates Maryland law to reflect the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), which provides legal, financial, employment, and occupational licensing protections for active duty service members and their spouses in order to reduce stress and minimize the burdens associated with being called to service. The bill also updates and streamlines expedited licensing for veterans and their spouses.

Military spouse unemployment still hovers around 20%, and more than 35% of military spouses are in careers that require state-based licensing or certification. Unfortunately, many still report difficulty transferring their licenses from one jurisdiction to another. Maryland is home to a significant military-connected population, including active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The transient nature of military life often creates barriers to employment for military spouses and veterans in licensed professions.

SB 242 addresses these challenges by updating the law to ensure these individuals can continue their professional careers without unnecessary delays or redundancies. This legislation aligns with Maryland's commitment to a whole-of-government approach to serving veterans and their families, ensuring that no one is left behind. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary

SB 242 Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Member

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

Position: FAV



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SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 12, 2026
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. I am Jim Campbell, president emeritus of AARP Maryland and a former state delegate from Baltimore City.

AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members statewide and is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization advocating for Marylanders age 50 and over and their families. We thank Senators Simonaire, Brooks, Carozza, Ellis, Gallion, Gile, Smith, West, and Watson for sponsoring this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 242, a comprehensive and forward-looking proposal that removes unnecessary employment barriers for our nation's service members, veterans, and military spouses.

AARP Maryland has four areas of focus in serving military families, including fighting fraud, helping with career and employment opportunities through the Military Service Job Center, caregiving, and access to benefits.

SB 242 helps veterans and their families by creating a clear, uniform, and statewide system to recognize out-of-state professional licenses held by military-connected individuals, enabling them to work in Maryland more quickly and with far less red tape.

Maryland is home to thousands of active-duty personnel, veterans, and military families who contribute greatly to our communities and our economy. Yet despite their training, experience, and qualifications, many find themselves unable to work when they relocate here because our licensing processes vary across agencies and often move slowly.

SB 242 directly addresses these challenges by creating a uniform licensing pathway applicable across nearly every regulated profession in the state. This bill modernizes and simplifies the process by issuing temporary authorization to work, applying standards broadly and consistently, and using uniform definitions so all agencies operate from the same standards.

The impact of this legislation will be significant. Military spouses, who experience unemployment at disproportionately high rates due to frequent moves, will be able to continue their careers with fewer interruptions. Veterans transitioning to civilian life will gain faster

access to the workforce. Service members relocating to Maryland will face fewer bureaucratic hurdles as they support their families and contribute their skills to our communities.

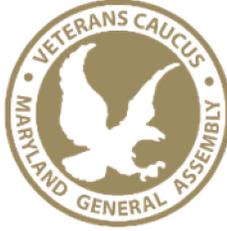
For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 242.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

SB242_Veterans.pdf

Uploaded by: Veterans Caucus Maryland

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

February 12, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB242: Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Chairman Feldman and Chairwoman Beidle,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus for Senate Bill 242.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Veterans Caucus believes that the above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin F. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Rogers".

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair

SB 242 - EEE- MBON - LOSWA.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: FWA



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for HB 242 Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

This bill allows for portability of licensure and certification for uniformed service members and their spouses, codifying the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act in State law. This is an admirable goal, and one that the Board supports both as a means of fair treatment to that community and as a tool to combat the workforce shortage in our state, making it easier for those concerned to come and practice in Maryland in a safe manner. However, there are a few technical items that the Board feels should be corrected before its passage. The Board's amendments do not make substantive changes to the bill, only clarifying existing law in the new language. The amendments are as follows:

pg. 8 line 23

(A) AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER OR THE SPOUSE OF AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER WHO RELOCATES TO THE STATE BECAUSE OF ORDERS FOR SERVICE AND HOLDS A LICENSE ISSUED BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION **WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OR ITS TERRITORIES** MAY PRACTICE IN THE STATE UNDER THE LICENSE FOR THE DURATION OF THE ORDERS IF:

pg. 62 line 6

(j) "Mentor" means [a certified registered nurse practitioner or a licensed physician] AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING OR MEDICINE AS A **CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER OR LICENSED PHYSICIAN** IN THE STATE:

pg. 63 line 27

(3) A student who is practicing certified midwifery while engaged in an approved clinical midwifery education experience under the supervision of [a licensed certified midwife or a licensed nurse certified as a nurse–midwife] **AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE ~~DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY AS A LICENSED CERTIFIED MIDWIFE~~ OR NURSING AS A CERTIFIED NURSE–MIDWIFE IN THE STATE;** or

(4) An individual who has graduated from a graduate level accredited program for midwifery education approved by ACME, and who is:

(i) Practicing certified midwifery under the supervision of [a licensed certified midwife or a licensed nurse certified as a nurse–midwife] **AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE ~~DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY AS A LICENSED CERTIFIED MIDWIFE~~ OR NURSING AS A CERTIFIED NURSE–MIDWIFE IN THE STATE;** and

For all of these reasons, the Board supports HB 242 and respectfully requests an amendment to reflect the changes the Board has detailed in this letter.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Christine Lechliter
Board President

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

MCPA_MSA SB 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Ser

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FWA



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair and
Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 12, 2026

RE: **SB 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 242 WITH AMENDMENTS.** We recognize the importance of helping active-duty service members and their spouses maintain professional stability when relocating to Maryland, and we appreciate the bill's broader effort to modernize occupational licensing portability in a fair and practical way.

However, we strongly urge the Committee to adopt a clear public safety carve out that excludes law enforcement and other public safety certifications from the bill's out of state recognition provisions. Unlike many civilian professions, law enforcement certification is directly tied to public trust and the safe exercise of police powers such as detaining and arresting individuals. Accepting another state's certification standards without Maryland specific training and vetting could unintentionally weaken the rigorous safeguards that Maryland has put in place to protect communities.

Maryland has some of the most demanding law enforcement certification and training requirements in the nation. The certification process includes an extensive background investigation, truth verification measures, and medical and psychological examinations. In addition, Maryland officers must be taught, tested, and demonstrate mastery of over 700 specific objectives, and entry level academies must include at least 850 hours of training. Only five states require longer academies, while some states mandate as few as 400 hours. It is our belief that state has an objectives-based training program as extensive as Maryland's.

We respectfully request an amendment explicitly excluding law enforcement and other public safety careers from the bill's licensure portability provisions. With this narrow but critical change, SB 242 can continue to support military families while preserving Maryland's high standards for public safety and

law enforcement certification. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 242 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

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SB242 - EEE - PT Board - SWA.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland

Position: FWA



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

**Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 304
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299**

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Senator Feldman and Committee Members,

The State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) submits this Letter of Support with Amendment regarding SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

The Board concurs with the amendments proposed by the Board of Physicians. These amendments preserve the bill’s original intent, eliminate the need to amend each licensing practice act, and ensure that the Health Occupation Boards retain the ability to implement the provisions through regulation.

Accordingly, the Board recommends that certain existing statutory language remain unchanged. For example, on page 69, line 11, the bill proposes to amend the definition of “direct supervision” as follows:

(b–1) “Direct supervision” means supervision provided by [a licensed physical therapist] **AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE STATE**, et seq.

The Board recommends adding a new section to Title 1, Subtitle 2 (“General Provisions”) of the Health Occupations Article stating:

(a) An individual who is qualified under SG § 10-14A-03 may practice to the same extent and in the same capacity as an individual licensed under this Article.

(b) The Department, in consultation with the boards, shall adopt regulations to implement SG § 10-14A-03.

The Board respectfully submits this Letter of Support with Amendment for SB 242 the Committee’s consideration.

Should you require any further information or clarification on this matter, please contact me at (443) 610-8047 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for the Health Occupations Boards & Commissions, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@marylandgov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Kendall-Ellis".

Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE
Executive Director

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

SB 242 - EEE- BOP - LOSWA.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FWA



Board of Physicians

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

**2026 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO.: SB 242
TITLE: Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
COMMITTEE: EEE
POSITION: Letter of Support With Amendments

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support With Amendments for Senate Bill 242 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

The Board supports the intent of SB 242 to align State law with the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) by codifying existing federal protections into Maryland statute. Health occupation boards, including the Board of Physicians, are already required to comply with the SCRA at the federal level, and the Board has incorporated these requirements into its operations since the federal mandate took effect in 2023. The Board recognizes the SCRA as a valuable supplemental and transitional tool for active-duty service members and their spouses who relocate to Maryland due to military orders.

While the Board supports the intent of codifying the SCRA into State law, it has concerns regarding the bill's current structure and approach to codification and therefore supports the bill with amendments.

SB 242 amends numerous articles and titles of the Annotated Code in order to modify professional titles and terminology. This approach introduces inconsistencies and ambiguity across statutes governing health occupations and other licensed professions.

For example, in certain provisions, the bill strikes references to “a licensed physician” and replaces it with “AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE STATE.” However, this terminology change is not applied consistently throughout the statute. As drafted, this creates inconsistencies and risks establishing a separation of authority and scope of practice between exempt service members or their spouses and Maryland-licensed practitioners. This could lead to confusion regarding regulatory oversight, enforcement, and patient protection.

Second, the Board is concerned about the lack of clear regulatory authority. While the Board has existing authority to promulgate regulations under Titles 14 and 15 of the Health Occupations Article, it does not currently have explicit authority to adopt regulations within the State Government Article. Without such authority, the Board's ability to administer and enforce SB 242's provisions would be unclear.

Proposed Amendments:

To address these concerns while preserving the bill's original intent, the Board proposes two amendments that would significantly shorten the bill and ensure consistent implementation across Maryland law.

Proposed Amendment (Inserted on Page 10 after line 25):

(E) An individual who is qualified under this subtitle may practice to the same extent and in the same capacity as a licensed professional.

(F) Each licensing authority may adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

These amendments ensure that service members and their spouses are granted full and equivalent practice authority, without amending numerous Articles and Titles of law. The amendments also provide the necessary regulatory authority to licensing boards, enabling effective and consistent implementation.

The Maryland Board of Physicians supports the intent of SB 242 and remains committed to assisting all service members and their families. With the proposed amendments, the Board believes that the bill would achieve its purpose without creating unintended statutory inconsistencies or administrative challenges.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully urges a favorable report with amendments on Senate Bill 242.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact for more information, contact:

Michael Tran
Health Policy Analyst
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

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.

Opposition to SB 242.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Doherty

Position: UNF



The Maryland State Dental Association and the Maryland Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Oppose SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
Respectfully Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.

With great respect for our military personnel and for the sponsors of SB 242, the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) and the Maryland Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (MSOMS) strongly oppose SB 242. The reasons for their objections include:

1. The bill attempts to treat authorization to practice more than 55 occupations the same – “one size fits all”;
2. SB 242 would require the State Board of Dental Examiners (SBDE) to authorize a service member or spouse to practice dentistry without a Maryland license;
3. The authorization to practice dentistry without a license under this bill would take away SBDE’s jurisdiction to discipline, or enjoin, an individual who is practicing in a manner that threatens the health and safety of patients and staff;
4. The bill prescribes that the individual’s scope of practice and the requirements or limitations to perform certain procedures, are not governed by Maryland Law, but rather by the laws of another state; and
5. Most importantly, it ignores the Public Policy of Maryland for the regulation of all health occupations – to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Maryland. SB 242 overrides this public policy to benefit service members and their spouses, at the expense of all Marylanders.

SB 242 would be applicable to occupations ranging from operators of sports wagering - to haulers of fluid dairy products - to electricians - to bay pilots - to a licensed wrestler - to dentists, physicians and all health occupations. Every occupation should be viewed separately, and the regulation and authorization to practice in Maryland should be according to appropriate standards for that profession. Certainly, the right to practice in Maryland for all health care providers requires a review and analysis of the person’s education curriculum, and their successful passage of clinical and other objective tests of competency. SB 242 would block a licensing authority’s ability to conduct such a review and analysis before granting an individual the authority to practice in Maryland. This does not place the health and safety of Marylanders First.

The SB 242 requires that an applicant under this bill be granted the authority to practice dentistry, and that they cannot be required to obtain a Maryland license. This provision prohibits the SBDE’s the ability to act when a dentist is, for example, violating infection control guidelines, providing dental services in an incompetent manner, or fails

to meet the standards of care. Without a license the SBDE is without the power to take action.

The bill's prescription that an individual's scope of practice is determined by another state's laws raises serious concerns for multiple health occupations. In dentistry it could literally lead to a patient's death. To illustrate, in Maryland the administering of general anesthesia in a dental office requires: a) that the office be permitted to assure it is properly equipped to administer the general anesthesia and to react if a medical crisis occurs; b) that the person administering the general anesthesia is properly qualified, i.e. an anesthesiologist, a dentist trained and permitted by the SBDE to administer general anesthesia; or a CRNA; and c) a second person who is also qualified to administer general anesthesia is present. Unlike a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility where multiple medical personnel are present, the only protection for a patient who experiences a medical crisis during the procedure are proper life-saving equipment and the two providers who are qualified under Maryland Law. However, if the requirements of the service member's state of licensure allows the administration of anesthesia under different circumstances, dental patients will be in jeopardy.

For these reasons the MSDA and the MSOMS request the SB 242 receive an unfavorable report.

Submitted by Daniel T. Doherty, Jr.
February 12, 2026

SB 242 Written Testimony NB .pdf

Uploaded by: Natasha Bharucha

Position: UNF

**In Opposition to Senate Bill 242- Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
Submitted by:**

Natasha Bharucha, D.D.S., M.P.H.

Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Natasha Bharucha, and I am a practicing orthodontist and a Medicaid provider in Maryland. I respectfully oppose Senate Bill 242.

I fully support efforts to help military service members and their spouses continue their careers when relocating, and I agree that unnecessary barriers to employment should be addressed. However, I am concerned that the language of this bill raises significant issues related to patient safety, regulatory clarity, and professional accountability.

Currently, Maryland law requires dentists to obtain licensure from the State Board of Dental Examiners. Licensure establishes uniform standards for education, training, ethics, and clinical practice, and provides clear accountability to Maryland's laws and regulatory expectations. Senate Bill 242 would replace this standard with the term “**individual authorized to practice dentistry**”, which may include temporary or out-of-state authorizations that do not align with Maryland's licensure requirements or regulatory framework.

Dentistry operates as a team-based profession. In my practice, dental assistants perform delegated tasks daily under my supervision. This model is common in orthodontics and is implemented in many states, with varying degrees of permissiveness regarding delegation. The critical issue is not the occurrence of delegation, but rather who holds ultimate accountability and under which standards. In Maryland, this accountability is clear because supervision and delegation authority are directly linked to licensure by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners.

Senate Bill 242 would undermine that clarity. Authorization under other statutes may be temporary or based on standards developed outside Maryland's dental regulatory system. Under this bill, individuals could supervise staff, fulfill direct supervision requirements, and act as the responsible provider, even if they have not been licensed by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners or trained to understand Maryland's specific expectations, laws, and enforcement mechanisms.

This distinction is especially important in orthodontics, where treatment often spans months or years and involves ongoing clinical judgment. Delegated tasks, such as placing orthodontic bands or archwires, require supervision by a provider fully accountable to Maryland's standards of care. Patients should not be subject to differing regulatory expectations depending on where a supervising dentist was originally licensed or authorized.

Additionally, the bill does not clearly address how discipline would be handled if an authorized individual fails to meet Maryland's standards of care or which entity would be responsible for enforcement. This concern mirrors issues raised in prior compact proposals. Maryland's licensure process ensures that dentists are subject to investigation, discipline, and enforcement by the State Board of Dental Examiners. That clarity is essential for patient protection and public trust.

Dental boards exist to set uniform standards, ensure consistent oversight, and protect patients. By incorporating a broad authorization statute into the Dental Practice Act, Senate Bill 242 shifts key regulatory decisions away from laws specific to dentistry and into a generalized framework that fails to account for the unique risks, delegation structures, and long-term care models in dental practice.

If the intent of Senate Bill 242 is to assist military families, that goal can be achieved without changing licensure standards. Requiring dentists to apply through established licensure pathways ensures they understand and are held accountable to Maryland's laws, standards, and disciplinary processes. Replacing licensure with a broader authorization standard weakens these protections and introduces unnecessary uncertainty for both providers and patients.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 242, or that amendments be adopted to preserve licensure as the foundation for supervision, delegation, and accountability in Maryland.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Submitted by:

Natasha Bharucha, D.D.S., M.P.H.

Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

February 12, 2026

SB0242_UNF_MedChi_Modernizing Civil Relief Service

Uploaded by: Steve Wise

Position: UNF



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Finance Committee
February 12, 2026
Senate Bill 242 – *Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act*
POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** Senate Bill 242.

This legislation would allow an active service member or their spouse who is licensed as a health professional in another state but on duty here in Maryland to practice under their license from the other state, without becoming licensed here. While we agree that Maryland has a substantial physician shortage and bringing qualified physicians into Maryland should be of the highest priority, patients also must be protected through our laws governing the practice of medicine.

Our read of Senate Bill 242 is that while it requires the Maryland Board of Physicians (“Board”) to recognize out of state physicians, it does not provide it with the authority to take disciplinary action against the physician if there is misconduct. No one wants to think of these scenarios, and they are rare, but they do occur, and when they occur, harmed patients expect the Board to be able to take immediate action.

We are also aware that there is a federal statute which addresses this subject matter. However, we believe there are some constitutional questions about whether the federal government can dictate licensure terms, which are generally among those powers reserved to the states.

Finally, and perhaps most important, Maryland already has a statute requiring expedited licensure for military members and their spouses. This statute appears on p. 49 of Senate Bill 242. We think this process is the right one because it ensures that members of the military and their spouses are expeditiously licensed, but it also ensures that the Board has authority over physician licensees when misconduct occurs.

For these reasons, we ask the Committee to oppose Senate Bill 242.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

sb242.pdf

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: UNF

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
P: (410)260-1523

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523

RE: Senate Bill 242
Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

DATE: February 4, 2026
(2/12)

POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 242, as drafted.

SB 242, titled Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act, incorporates recent changes in federal law, 50 U.S.C. 4025a. The Judiciary opposes those provisions of Senate Bill 242 that apply to the practice of law (proposed amendments to Business Occupations and Professions, Title 10 on pages 23-25) because of separation of powers concerns. The Judiciary is recommending that these proposed revisions be removed from the bill. The Maryland Supreme Court oversees the practice of law in Maryland. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules Committee) is in the process of updating the Maryland Rules to incorporate recent changes to federal law in connection with the practice of law in Maryland. Given the separation of powers concerns, the Judiciary believes that these changes should be addressed by the Rules Committee pursuant to the Supreme Court's authority over this matter and its rule-making authority.

cc. Hon. Bryan Simonaire
Judicial Council

Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor

MSP Position on SB0242.pdf

Uploaded by: Breanna Mowbray

Position: INFO



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 12, 2026
BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 242 **POSITION:** Letter of Information
BILL TITLE: Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to expand business license portability in Maryland for active-duty service members and their spouses by permitting individuals to practice certain occupations and professions in the State using out-of-state licenses, without first meeting Maryland’s licensing requirements. While the Maryland State Police (MSP) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) support efforts to assist military families, this legislation raises public safety, regulatory, and enforcement concerns.

Under current law, professional licenses issued by other states are generally not recognized in Maryland. Individuals holding out-of-state credentials are required to obtain Maryland licensure before practicing. Licensing boards retain full authority to determine whether applicants meet Maryland-specific standards and may require completion of the full licensure process to include testing and observation. These safeguards ensure consistency, accountability, and public protection.

The MSP Automotive Safety Enforcement Division is responsible for licensing and regulating vehicle safety inspectors and inspection stations. Inspection certifications issued by other states are based on that state’s specific regulations and do not reflect knowledge of Maryland’s more comprehensive safety inspection standards. Maryland requires applicants to complete a written examination and successfully perform a supervised practical inspection to demonstrate competency. Applicants are currently afforded up to six months to complete the practical examination. This process cannot be condensed into a 30-day timeframe without compromising regulatory integrity and the MSP does not issue temporary inspection licenses. Eliminating these requirements risks allowing unqualified individuals to inspect vehicles, potentially placing unsafe vehicles on Maryland roadways and endangering public safety.

Senate Bill 242 further requires the OSFM to certify active-duty service members or their spouses as explosive handlers and electrical inspectors based solely on out-of-state licensure. Maryland law requires all explosives licensees to undergo comprehensive criminal background checks, a standard that exceeds those in many jurisdictions. OSFM requires applicants to pass a written examination covering safety and regulatory requirements and to secure employment with a licensed Maryland explosives company prior to licensure. Senate Bill 242 would bypass these critical safeguards, weakening established oversight and increasing public safety risks.

State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Additionally, electrical codes vary significantly among states. The OSFM currently licenses nongovernmental electrical inspectors only after applicants demonstrate proficiency in the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70, 2017 edition) through formal testing. Granting reciprocity to inspectors trained under different code editions introduces unnecessary risks and inconsistencies. Such disparities may result in conflicting inspections, regulatory confusion, and increased challenges for property owners, contractors, and permitting authorities.

While MSP and OSFM recognize the importance of supporting military families, SB 242 undermines Maryland's established licensing standards and public safety protections. The bill would allow individuals to practice in highly regulated fields without demonstrating adequate knowledge of Maryland-specific laws, codes, and safety requirements.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to consider this information when deliberating on Senate Bill 242.

SB 242_LOI_DPSCS.pdf

Uploaded by: Jason Davidson

Position: INFO



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

BILL: SENATE BILL 242

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

STATE OF MARYLAND

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
SECRETARY

OLUWATOYIN BAKARE
ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

DAVID GREENE
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

ANGELINA GUARINO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DATA, POLICY AND GRANTS

RENARD BROOKS

EXPLANATION: Senate Bill 242 would authorize active service members and spouses to practice in the State under an occupational or professional license issued in another jurisdiction. Additionally, the legislation would alter the definition of "eligible veteran" and include former service members who have been discharged for more than 1 year before an application for a license, certificate, or registration is submitted.

- The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) prescribes minimum police selection and training standards for entrance, in-service and advanced levels for all police officers serving State, county, and municipal agencies in Maryland.
- The language defining a license would include the police officer certification issued by the Maryland Police Training & Standards Commission.
- The entry-level training requirements established by the Commission include a minimum academy length of 850 hours in sixteen specific topical areas of instruction.
- Forty-three states have minimum academy lengths that are less than Maryland to include eight that require less than 500 hours of training.
- Entry level training students must master over 217 terminal objectives and 439 enabling objectives to successfully be certified as a police officer.
- Nine states do not have mandated training objectives and 7 states have no unified statewide curriculum.
- Maryland requires all entry-level academies to include topics of instruction on sexual harassment, hate crimes, cultural diversity, and community policing.

- Other states have significant gaps in the training provided in certain areas. Twenty-eight states do not require sexual harassment, 20 do not require hate crime, 11 do not require cultural diversity, and 14 do not require community police training.
- Maryland requires all applicants for certification to submit to a robust background investigation that includes medical testing, a psychological evaluation and the Commission independently runs the fingerprints of all applicants.
- Six states do not require a medical certification, 14 states do not require a psychological evaluation and 24 states do not independently run the fingerprints of applicants.
- Maryland requires all certified officers to be at least 21 years of age. Eighteen states allow individuals under the age of 21 to be certified.

CONCLUSION: Maryland has some of the most stringent training and certification requirements in the country. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests this Committee consider this information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 242.

bae_MD-SB242.pdf

Uploaded by: Joana da Silva-Gonzalez

Position: INFO

Date: February 12, 2026

Bill number: MD SB242

Dear Chair Feldman, Vicechair Kagan, and all distinguished members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill. My name is Kihwan Bae, and I am a research fellow at the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The center is a non-partisan research group, and this comment is not submitted on behalf of any party or interest groups.

My studies examine a broad range of implications of occupational regulations. One of the studies shows that expedited licensing programs for military spouses improve their labor market outcomes after a relocation across military bases in different states. For example, I found an increase in wage and salary income and a decline in unemployment compensation among military spouse interstate migrants.

As of today, almost all states have an expedited licensing program for military spouses, and some states – including Maryland – also have a similar program for active duty service members, veterans, or veteran spouses. This bill streamlines the existing program for active duty service members and military spouses and extends it to veterans and their spouses by removing a one-year post-transfer period restriction for certain occupations. It is expected to reduce economic burdens among military families upon relocations and increase the supply of licensed workers in teaching, health, and finance occupations in the Free State.

The bill also includes safeguards to protect public health and safety from unskilled practices: the expedited licensing program only applies to individuals with out-of-states licenses in good standing, and it allows the licensing authority to conduct a criminal history records check prior to authorizing licensed practice.

Taken together, research suggests that expedited licensing for military families is a way to alleviate burdens on military families who sacrificed or is sacrificing for the nation with little harm on public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Kihwan Bae

Dr. Kihwan Bae
Assistant Professor, General Business Department
Research Fellow, Knee Regulatory Research Center
West Virginia University
Reynolds Hall 6305, 83 Beechurst Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505
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SB 242_MIEMSS_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Theodore Delbridge

Position: INFO



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Wes W. Moore
Governor

Clay B. Stamp
Chairman EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 242 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

—LETTER OF INFORMATION—

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) respectfully submits this informational letter regarding Senate Bill 242, which would authorize active service members and their spouses, under certain circumstances, to practice in the State based on an occupational or professional license issued in another jurisdiction.

The stated goal of this legislation is a noble one. However, in the case of an emergency medical services (EMS) clinician holding an out-of-state license, the application process outlined in the proposed bill would actually make it more complicated for the clinician to begin practicing in Maryland. As you consider this legislation, please take into account the following:

- Currently, MIEMSS expedites applications for reciprocal licensure on a routine basis. The system is efficient and requires fewer steps than the application process proposed in the bill.
- By the time the applicant meets the bill's requirements under 10-14A-03, sections A–C, as outlined on pages 9–10, the applicant would have fulfilled the requirements for reciprocal licensure, which is both easier and less costly to manage.
- Access to the Electronic Maryland EMS Data System (eMEDS)—the State's comprehensive prehospital patient care reporting system—is linked to state licensure. Consequently, if this bill were to become law, it would require MIEMSS to create a separate and parallel system to grant and manage access to the State's EMS patient care record.
- EMS clinicians may differ from other occupations in that their practice is governed by State-specific clinical protocols that are periodically updated in accordance with evidence-based best practices. A clinician's knowledge of these evidence-based modifications is facilitated and tracked through MIEMSS' current licensure system.
- Should this bill become law, MIEMSS would be required to create a tracking mechanism to monitor the status and validity of any out-of-state licenses used as the basis for practicing in Maryland, or relegate this responsibility to local jurisdictional EMS operational programs (at their expense).

MIEMSS would support simple modification of the bill to allow for exceptions in cases where an established reciprocity process exists, in addition to situations in which there are interstate compacts.

I hope this information is helpful as your committee consider this legislation. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director