



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**Maryland Health Occupations Boards**  
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### 2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO:** HB 1372  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**POSITION:** Support as Amended

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**TITLE:** Public Health – Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Health Centralization Commission

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Health Care Quality within the Maryland Department of Health, to develop a process to receive and publish certain inspection information on the Commission’s Maryland Quality Reporting website; establishing the Maryland Health Centralization Commission to provide certain advise and recommendations relating to the relationship between the Department and the health occupations boards. The bill further requires the Secretary of Information Technology to ensure that all health occupations boards adhere to State cybersecurity standards and to develop a process to identify, share for inspection, and publish certain information on a website.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Maryland Boards of Acupuncture, Chiropractic Examiners, Dental Examiners, Environmental Health Specialists, Long-Term Care Administrators, Massage Therapy Examiners, Morticians & Funeral Directors, Physical Therapy Examiners, Podiatric Medical Examiners, Professional Counselors & Therapists, and Social Work Examiners (the “Boards”) support HB 1372 as amended.

Maryland’s health occupations boards are intentionally structured as semi-independent, peer-regulated bodies accountable to the Secretary and the General Assembly. This structure demonstrates the State’s commitment to public protection in healthcare by pairing subject-matter

experts and State representatives to set professional standards and develop enforcement mechanisms. This commitment is demonstrated by:

- Consistent submission of Managing for Results (MFR) data with full knowledge that the information is publicly reported;
- Submission of data secondary to the 2024 Maryland Government Transparency Act (2024), including the update of information on our websites about application submission processing timelines;
- Active participation in the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis, including the State Efficiencies and Cooperation Advisory Workgroup;
- Ongoing collaboration with the Department to modernize performance standards and improve efficiency; and
- Timely responses to transparency-related requirements, including Public Information Act requests, IQ system inquiries, reasonable accommodation reports, and other Departmental oversight mechanisms.

Ongoing, meaningful consultation with the Boards throughout the Commission's work will support a thorough and well-informed assessment of existing strengths, areas that require support for improvement, and identification of initiatives already underway, demonstrating the Boards' commitment to accountability and transparent public service.

The amended language significantly strengthens the bill by expanding the Commission's scope to include both self-funded and general-funded statutorily independent Boards of varying sizes, as well as stakeholders and agencies beyond the Maryland Department of Health. It authorizes the Commission to review past and ongoing work from the Boards and stakeholders, analyze data, and examine audit findings without duplicating efforts. Together, these provisions enable the Commission to achieve its goals through mutually beneficial collaboration and develop informed, consensus-driven recommendations.

For these reasons, the Boards submit this letter of support for HB 1372 as amended. For more information, please contact Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for the Health Occupations Boards at 443-794-4757 or [lillian.reese@maryland.gov](mailto:lillian.reese@maryland.gov).

*The opinion of the Boards expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.*