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Howard County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Election Law

Labor

Oversight Committee on Personnel



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Finance Committee

From: Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13, Howard County

Re: Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 986 – Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 986, which clarifies and strengthens the role of education verification in the nursing licensure process in Maryland. The bill focuses on ensuring that applicants for nursing licenses provide clear evidence that their educational credentials meet Maryland's standards, and on confirming the Board of Nursing's ability to enforce educational requirements.

This bill does *not* create additional education requirements for registered nurses in the state of Maryland. It is meant to strengthen public trust in Maryland-issued nursing licenses. Recently, national and regional concerns have been raised over diploma mills and falsified transcripts for nursing license applicants.

HB 986 requires endorsement applicants for nurse licensure to produce evidence (if required by the Board) that their nursing education credentials meet Maryland's statutory and regulatory requirements. This includes submission of official transcripts verifying completion of an approved nursing education program. The bill also adds failure to complete the educational requirements (under HOA 8-302) as explicit grounds for licensure denial or discipline. This explicitly authorizes the Board to take appropriate disciplinary action — such as denial, suspension, or revocation of a license — when a person fails to complete the educational requirements established under Maryland law for nursing licensure.

This legislation simply clarifies the investigative authority of the Board of Nursing, so the Board can effectively verify educational credentials. These changes will ensure the safety of both patients and nurses in medical settings.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 986.