

Sponsor Testimony, HB 986 for FIN.pdf

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Position: FAV

JEN TERRASA
Legislative District 13
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.

HB 986 - Finance- MBON - LOSAA.docx (1).pdf

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Board of Nursing

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

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 986 – Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for HB 986 Nurse Licensure - Educational Requirements - Enforcement. This bill would make enforcement of educational requirements more explicit, allowing the Board to ensure all nurses in the State are held to the highest educational standards. The amendment to the bill that was at the request of the Board removes unnecessary language regarding the Nurse Licensure Compact.

In 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) announced enforcement actions against a large-scale fraudulent nursing diploma scheme. The Maryland Board of Nursing, having dealt with a number of cases involving such fraudulent diplomas, assisted the FBI in their efforts in order to protect Maryland patients. Since then, the Board has continued to work diligently to identify unqualified practitioners in their jurisdiction. HB 986 reinforces the Board's ability to require endorsement candidates to provide evidence of meeting the basic nursing education required either at the time of application or, if the individual presents an otherwise valid multistate license, after the license is issued if there is any subsequent suspicion of fraud or failure to complete a valid nursing education program.

For all of these reasons, the Board supports HB 986 as amended and requests a favorable report by the Committee. 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.

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Board of Nursing

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

March 25, 2026

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Chair, Health Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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