



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 13, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Chair, House Health Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

### —LETTER OF INFORMATION—

Dear Chairs Wells and Bagnall and Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections & Health Committees:

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) respectfully submits this informational letter regarding House Bill 420, 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 requires them to be affiliated with an EMS operational program, a process facilitated by State licensure. Additionally, 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 license used as the basis for practicing in Maryland, or relegate this responsibility to local jurisdictional EMS operational programs (at their expense).

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MIEMSS would support modifications 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. Or, in the alternative, we suggest the language enclosed with this letter, which would allow our current reciprocal licensure process to continue helping active service members and their spouses begin practicing as quickly and efficiently as possible while still complying with federal law and the bill's provisions.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theodore R. Delbridge".

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

**SUGGESTED LANGUAGE:**

On page 10, add a subsection (3) under (D), which would read as follows:

**WHILE THE LICENSING AUTHORITY MAY NOT REQUIRE THE ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER OR SPOUSE OF AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER TO OBTAIN A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY, A LICENSE MAY BE OFFERED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO RECOGNITION OF AN OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE.**