



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland Health Occupations Boards
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Baltimore, MD 21215

Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Maryland Board of Dental Examiners
Spring Grove Hospital Center/Rush Bldg.
55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

March 11, 2026

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

RE: HB 1079- Office of Regulatory Management and State Government Authorizations - Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members:

The following Maryland health occupations boards (the “Boards”) respectfully submit this Letter of Concern for HB 1079: the Board of Dental Examiners, the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Examiners in Optometry, and the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners.

The Boards recognize and support the importance of sound policies, oversight, accountability, and efforts to streamline licensure processes. However, the Boards currently license qualified health occupation practitioners within **ten (10) business days** after receipt and verification of all required documentation. As such, the Boards have already implemented efficient licensure processing practices consistent with the stated goals of the legislation.

The Boards maintain transparency through their publicly accessible website, which includes:

- The Practice Acts (statutes and regulations);

- Detailed licensing application instructions and applicant responsibilities;
- Direct links to applications;
- Monthly Public Open Session approved minutes.

In addition, the Boards maintain a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual, which is reviewed and updated annually to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness. These procedures are benchmarked against performance data and aligned with annually reviewed staff job descriptions (MS-22).

Government Efficiency and Performance Reporting

Oversight and performance monitoring mechanisms are already in place. The Governor’s Transparent Government Act of 2024 established the Government Efficiency Commission. In response, the Health Occupations Boards submitted detailed operational data for inclusion in the Commission’s catalog, including:

- License titles and descriptions
- Number of licenses issued annually
- Fee structures
- Expedited processing practices
- Special fund revenue structures
- Application timelines
- IT systems utilized
- Criminal background check requirements
- Statutory and regulatory authority
- Recommendations for improved efficiency

Given the depth, scope, and recency of this information, it would be prudent to build upon the Commission’s collected and analyzed data rather than create duplicative reporting or oversight structures.

Additionally, the Department of Health’s (MDH) Managing for Results (MFR) process annually collects and reports measurable goals, objectives, and performance data, including initial licensure timelines, renewal processing, and complaint investigation metrics. This data allows for year-over-year performance comparisons. The Boards are currently working with the MDH Budget Management Office to modernize MFR language and update data collection methodologies.

Further, the MDH Units of Measurement form is completed annually and directly informs fiscal year budget estimates and workload projections.

Another concern is the Bill’s desire for an “increased transparency of the State regulatory process.” (pg. 3, lines 3-4) The Boards are unsure what that would entail since the regulations already go through a stringent review process by MDH, the Governor’s Office, the AELR Committee, the licensees and public stakeholders through the regulations 30-day public comment period published in the *Maryland Register*. Regulations are also discussed and voted on in Board open meetings. There is also an existing comprehensive process every 8 years as a result of the Regulatory Review and

Evaluation Act. HB 1079 would add unnecessary steps into the regulations process with needless, onerous reporting.

Given these existing accountability frameworks and recent statewide efficiency reviews, the Boards respectfully submit that the objectives of HB 1079 are already being addressed through established mechanisms.

For these reasons, the Boards respectfully urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 1079.

Should you require any further information or clarification on this matter, please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director for the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at (443) 610-8047 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,



Laurie Kendall-Ellis, PT, CAE
Executive Director

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