



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

*Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
Spring Grove Hospital Center • Benjamin Rush
Building
55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive • Catonsville, MD
21228*

February 17, 2026

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

Re: HB 420 Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act – Dental Board – Letter of Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners respectfully submits this letter of support with an amendment for HB 420 Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act. The bill allows an active service member or their spouse who has relocated to Maryland, and who holds a health occupations license, certificate, or registration in another state (including the Dental Board), to obtain a Maryland license, certificate, or registration and practice in Maryland during the duration of their orders. The licensee, certificate holder, or registrant must submit an application to the appropriate health occupations board, that includes proof of the orders, a copy of a marriage certificate if the applicant is the spouse of the active service member, and a notarized affidavit affirming that: all statements made in the application are true, correct, and complete; the applicant has read and understands the requirements to receive a license and their scope of practice of the State; the applicant is in good standing in all jurisdictions in which the applicant holds or held a license; no disciplinary actions have been taken against the applicant regarding their license; and no investigations related to unprofessional conduct is pending against the applicant.

If the licensing authority cannot meet the requirement within 30 days of receiving the application, it may issue a temporary license. A licensing authority may conduct a criminal history records check before authorizing the applicant to practice or issuing a temporary license.

The bill will benefit service members and their spouses who wish to practice outside of the military in private dental offices during the duration of their orders. Primarily, it allows individuals to supplement their military income while off duty. The bill enhances the portability of dental licensure and helps transition those who may eventually seek private employment or self-employment.

The Dental Board notes that it has been dutifully complying with the federal SCRA requirements since its inception in 2023 and has, to date, recognized 22 dental professionals pursuant to that federal law.

Accordingly, the Dental Board supports the bill but notes that the bill, as introduced, amends each practice act and, as a result, is quite lengthy. The Board, along with several other health occupations boards, has worked with Senator Simonaire to develop amendments for the cross-file to this bill in the Senate, SB 242, that would obviate the need to amend each practice act and would ensure that all the health occupations boards are able to adopt regulations to properly implement the bill's requirements.

The Board respectfully urges the House Committees to adopt the same amendments to clarify and strengthen this key legislation.

For these reasons, the Board requests that HB 420 receive a favorable report with consensus amendments agreed to by the Senate sponsor.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 202-997-2606; chiyo.alie@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.
Chiyo Alie, D.D.S.
Board President

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this letter does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.