



# Board of Physicians

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair*

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**2026 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO.:** HB 420  
**TITLE:** Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act  
**COMMITTEE:** GLE  
**POSITION:** Letter of Support With Amendments

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**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support With Amendments for House Bill 420 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

The Board supports the intent of HB 420 to align State law with the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) by codifying existing federal protections into Maryland statute. Health occupation boards, including the Board of Physicians, are already required to comply with the SCRA at the federal level, and the Board has incorporated these requirements into its operations since the federal mandate took effect in 2023. The Board recognizes the SCRA as a valuable supplemental and transitional tool for active-duty service members and their spouses who relocate to Maryland due to military orders.

While the Board supports the intent of codifying the SCRA into State law, it has concerns regarding the bill's current structure and approach to codification and therefore supports the bill with amendments.

HB 420 amends numerous articles and titles of the Annotated Code in order to modify professional titles and terminology. This approach introduces inconsistencies and ambiguity across statutes governing health occupations and other licensed professions.

For example, in certain provisions, the bill strikes references to “a licensed physician” and replaces it with “AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE STATE.” However, this terminology change is not applied consistently throughout the statute. As drafted, this creates inconsistencies and risks establishing a separation of authority and scope of practice between exempt service members or their spouses and Maryland-licensed practitioners. This could lead to confusion regarding regulatory oversight, enforcement, and patient protection.

Second, the Board is concerned about the lack of clear regulatory authority. While the Board has existing authority to promulgate regulations under Titles 14 and 15 of the Health Occupations Article, it does not currently have explicit authority to adopt regulations within the State Government Article. Without such authority, the Board's ability to administer and enforce HB 420's provisions would be unclear.

**Proposed Amendments:**

To address these concerns while preserving the bill's original intent, the Board proposes two amendments that would significantly shorten the bill and ensure consistent implementation across Maryland law.

Proposed Amendment (Inserted on Page 10 after line 25):

**(E) An individual who is qualified under this subtitle may practice to the same extent and in the same capacity as a licensed professional.**

**(F) Each licensing authority may adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.**

These amendments ensure that service members and their spouses are granted full and equivalent practice authority, without amending numerous Articles and Titles of law. The amendments also provide the necessary regulatory authority to licensing boards, enabling effective and consistent implementation.

The Maryland Board of Physicians supports the intent of HB 420 and remains committed to assisting all service members and their families. With the proposed amendments, the Board believes that the bill would achieve its purpose without creating unintended statutory inconsistencies or administrative challenges.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully urges a favorable report with amendments on House Bill 420.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact for more information, contact:

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Sincerely,



Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.  
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.**