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HB 1372 Testimony – House Health Committee
Office of Health Care Quality Information & MDH Centralization Commission
March 11, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present on HB 1372, Public Health - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Centralization Commission. This legislation creates a commission to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the General Assembly on improving the relationship between MDH and the 22 Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBCs) to achieve greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Recent audits have highlighted issues with the HPBCs in several areas including investigations around fraudulent nursing licenses/complaints against licensees and timely inspections of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. There were also issues related to outdated and inefficient systems including financial systems and procedures around collections, and cybersecurity/IT systems. These key areas would be addressed by this legislation. The Commission would examine ways to help HPBCs establish solid policies and procedures for all investigations, improve licensee application processing time, and how to best integrate the various systems that the 22 HPBCs use, including licensing, finance, HR, and IT systems.

Commission Structure

- One member each from the House and Senate;
- The MDH Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services;
- The Executive Directors of the four largest boards/commissions (Nursing, Physicians, Pharmacy, Social Work, and Environmental Health Specialists);
- Each HPBC will designate an employee from their board to serve as liaison to the Commission; and
- The MDH Secretary would act as Chair and can appoint any additional members needed to accomplish the goals of the Commission.

Broader Commission Goals

- The Commission will provide recommendations on how to best grant authority to MDH to ensure that each HPBC remedies audit findings and establishes proper policies and procedures.
- All 22 boards and commissions have similar needs but use multiple systems in various areas. One goal of the Commission is to establish a single, comprehensive licensure system for all HPBCs, funded by licensing fees.
- Another goal is to consolidate similar administrative functions to enhance efficiency in systems including e-mail, finance, and human resources services, and the examination of using existing State systems in these areas where possible.
- Each year, the HPBC Commission will continue to report solutions to the Maryland General Assembly including potential draft legislation, and assurances that cybersecurity requirements are met.
- Finally, in addressing transparency, another goal across all boards is to increase public awareness and usage of the Maryland Health Care Commission's website, which contains ratings for the State's various healthcare facilities including nursing homes, assisted living, and other long-term care facilities. This legislation will:
 - Enhance reports and ratings listed on the website to best assist State residents with selecting the appropriate care setting for family members who may need these services.
 - Require that the Commission post on its website information about inspections of facilities and whether those inspections were conducted on-time, late, or if they have not been done.

Overall, this legislation will ensure that each of the HPBCs is working in conjunction with a central authority, MDH, to increase accountability, remedy audit findings, and improve current policies. The goal is to take advantage of the similarities between boards and examine options for consolidation where it makes sense, and to strategically reduce the workload of the HPBCs and improve outcomes across all boards for licensees, care recipients, and the boards themselves.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for HB 1372.