



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Health Occupations Boards
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Maryland Board of Nursing
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Maryland Board of Dental Examiners
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Catonsville, Maryland 21228

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 1420
COMMITTEE: Health
POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Criminal History Records Checks

BILL ANALYSIS: To establish and alter requirements related to criminal history records checks for certain licenses and certificates issued by certain health occupations boards.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The following Boards support HB 1420: The Maryland Board of Acupuncture, the Maryland Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals, the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners, the Maryland Board of Dietetic Practice, the Maryland Board of Environmental Health Specialists, the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, the Maryland Board of Nursing, the Maryland Board of Optometry, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy, the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, and the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the “Boards”).

Various health occupations boards currently do not require criminal history records checks (CHRC) as a condition of licensure and some do not receive subsequent alerts of criminal activity (Record of Arrest and Prosecution or Rap Back). Two boards need to update CHRC in their statute for license renewals and reinstatements. The Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) submitted a report on April 9, 2025, that recommended that all of the health occupations boards require criminal background checks when an individual applies to become a licensed health

professional/and or Rap Back. Concerns were raised, for example, that several active licensees convicted of crimes of moral turpitude were not identified. In order to add CHRC, statutes for the boards included in HB 1420 need to be amended.

For these reasons, the Boards support HB 1420 and request a favorable report.

If you require more information, please contact Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for the Health Occupations Boards, at 443-794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

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