



**HB1420 Health Occupations - Criminal History Records Checks**  
**Health Committee**  
**March 11, 2026**

**Position:** Favorable with Amendments

**Background:** HB1420 would extend the requirement for licensees to undergo a criminal background check to multiple health occupations boards in Maryland.

**Comments:** The Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores (MACDS) would respectfully recommend several amendments to HB1420 Health Occupations - Criminal History Records Checks, which as introduced would impose criminal background check requirements on all licensees applying under the jurisdiction of the Board of Pharmacy. At this time, while individual company requirements may vary, regulations require pharmacy technician license applicants to undergo a background check which does not require a fingerprinting process, and pharmacy license applicants are not required to submit to any background check under the Board of Pharmacy.

MACDS is aware that the Office of Legislative Audits issued a recommendation in 2025 to impose background checks on license applicants under various health occupations boards in Maryland due to several active licensees in Maryland who had been convicted of crimes of moral turpitude. As Maryland as a state strongly encourages reentry and has taken such steps as prohibiting the inclusion of criminal history questions from job applications, **MACDS would recommend that any licensing decisions made based on the background checks required by HB1420 exclusively consider crimes of moral turpitude.**

Additionally, **MACDS would respectfully request that HB1420 be amended to strike the language from page 27, line 11 to page 28, line 17**, which as written would require pharmacy technician license applicants to undergo a full background check including fingerprinting. The fingerprinting requirement, which can add several weeks to the background check process, adds additional steps to an already constrained timeline for pharmacy technician applicants. Pharmacy technicians are required to complete a complex training program, which can include up to 400 hours of training and multiple scheduled classes. Applicants then have 6 months to apply and receive confirmation of their registration from the Board of Pharmacy to continue working. Pharmacy technicians who work on a part-time basis often face difficulties in completing the requirements within the allowed timeline. Removing the fingerprinting requirement and allowing the existing background check requirement to stand would address the possibility of HB1420 exacerbating this issue.

Alternatively, should the Committee wish to maintain the requirements in HB1420 as written, MACDS would suggest following the lead of our neighbors in

Virginia and **extending the amount of time allowed for pharmacy technicians to complete their training from 6 months to 2 years, with the following language:**

§12-6B-02.

(5) Complete a pharmacy technician training program approved by the Board that:

(i) Includes 160 hours of work experience; and

(ii) Is no longer than [6 months] **2 Years**' duration; and

This timeline extension would alleviate the pressure imposed by the fingerprinting requirement, which if delayed could impact a pharmacy technician applicant's ability to complete the necessary training within the time allowed by regulation.

MACDS would respectfully request the Committee's consideration of the proffered language to address concerns among our members regarding the requirements proposed by HB1420. Thank you for your attention.