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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1420 --Health Occupations - Criminal History Records Checks

March 11, 2026 -- House Health Committee

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present on HB 1420, Health Occupations - Criminal History Records Checks. This legislation addresses the Maryland Department of Health Regulatory Services, which oversees the State's Health Professional Boards and Commissions. There are 22 boards and commissions, and these include the Board of Nursing, the Board of Physicians, and others. A recent OLA audit determined that multiple boards did not require criminal background checks for those applying for a license and some boards did not receive subsequent alerts of criminal activity for approved licenses.

This legislation addresses that issue by granting statutory authority to those Boards and Commissions, as follows:

Seven boards needed initial criminal records checks and also needed subsequent alerts of criminal activity, and they are the boards for:

1. Acupuncture
2. Dental Examiners
3. Dietetic Practice
4. Nursing (forensic nurse examiners, worker's compensation case managers)
5. Optometry
6. Pharmacy and
7. Environmental Health Specialists

Five boards needed the instant alerts of subsequent criminal activity only. These are instant alerts via the FBI Rap Back program, which automatically sends subsequent alerts of criminal activity for individuals who are already licensed. The five boards needing these were for:

1. Morticians and Funeral Directors
2. Physical Therapy Examiners
3. Podiatric Medical Examiners
4. Board of Psychologists and

5. Residential Child Care Program Professionals

In closing, this bill covers all of the boards and commissions' statutory needs that were noted by the audit and grants them the authority needed to ensure comprehensive background checks across each.

This Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee voted unanimously to recommend this bill as well. Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for HB 1420.