



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Board of Acupuncture
Metro Executive Plaza
4201 Patterson Avenue, Third Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 450
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
POSITION: Support With Amendment

TITLE: Criminal Procedure-Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill would prohibit courts and certain third parties involved in criminal or juvenile delinquency proceedings from providing unredacted records identifying victims of sexual assault or stalking.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The State Board of Acupuncture (the “Board”) supports HB 450 with an amendment.

The Board is one of the health occupations regulatory boards established by the Maryland General Assembly and charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Maryland. The Board fulfills its mission of protecting the public through: (1) shepherding practice law and regulation; (2) licensing qualified practitioners of acupuncture and East Asian medicine and (3) enforcement when violations of laws and regulations are proven after the completion of investigations. Such investigations include reports of inappropriate touching and sexual behaviors from patients and law enforcement.

The Board strongly supports the intent of the bill and acknowledges that the personal and contact information for victims of sexual assault and stalking must be safeguarded; and access to such information must be limited to ensure the integrity of law enforcement action, judicial proceedings as well as victim safety and quality of life overall. Board investigations follow the same guidelines and do not release victims’ information in our hearings or our public orders.

However, the current version of HB 450 impedes the Board’s ability to conduct a full and timely investigation of licensees who have potentially sexually assaulted or stalked patients. This unintended consequence ultimately can inhibit the Board’s ability to protect the public by making it impossible to gather sufficient information to make an informed decision about the misconduct of a licensee.

The Board of Acupuncture requests consideration of an amendment to HB 450 that allows the health occupations regulatory boards as State entities with investigative responsibilities and enforcement power to receive unredacted documents for purposes of performing their own investigation. The Board would also support a provision specifically prohibiting redisclosure, similar to the provision in the Confidentiality of Medical Records Act, Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. § 4-301 *et seq.*, which allows the health regulatory boards access to confidential medical records for investigative purposes, but strictly prohibits the re-disclosure of those records without the consent of the patient.

For more information, please contact Tiffany Smith-Williams, Executive Director at 410-764-5925 or Tiffany.Smith-Williams@maryland.gov or Lillian Reese, the legislative liaison for the boards at 443-794-4757 or at 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.