

2023 Legislative Actions to Strengthen Maryland's Hospital Workforce

The General Assembly passed legislation to grow Maryland's health care workforce, reduce administrative burdens, and allow providers to practice at the top of their license.



Supported Board of Nursing Reform

[SB 960/HB 611 -State Board of Nursing – Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership](#): The bill transfers authority over the Board of Nursing's infrastructure operations to the Secretary of Health for two years. Under the legislation, the Board is required to hire an external consultant in partnership with the Department of Budget & Management, Department of Health, and the Department of Information Technology. The bill also removes current Board members in two phases and allows them to reapply and allows nurse graduates to take the national licensure examination twice before losing nurse graduate status.



Removed Licensure Barriers for Internationally Educated Health Care Workers

[SB 187/HB 454 - Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Lawful Presence and Identification Numbers](#): The bill allows an individual applying for a health occupations license, who does not have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to provide alternative documentation as permitted by federal law. Alternative documentation can include a sworn affidavit.



Streamlined Physician Credentialing Process

[SB 258/HB 633: Hospital Credentialing - Reappointment Process for Physician Staff – Modification](#): The bill removes the two-year requirement to align with the three-year timeline recently established by The Joint Commission.



Granted Prescriptive Authority to Clinical Nurse Specialists

[SB 213/HB 278: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing](#): The bill provides prescriptive authority for clinical nurse specialists (CNS) for drugs and durable medical equipment, amends the Maryland Pharmacy Act to include clinical nurse specialists, and authorizes a physician to prepare and dispense a prescription written by a CNS. The Board of Nursing published amendments to COMAR [10.27.27.01](#) and [10.27.27.04](#) to support this change.