

## **MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**

### **2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

During the 2023 Maryland General Assembly session, legislators considered more than 2,000 bills and resolutions. The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) reviewed and prioritized bills weekly, focusing on legislation impacting the Board's mission, operations, or licensees. Below is a snapshot of enacted bills that have the most impact.

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#### **ENACTED BILLS**

**Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Chapter 058) / House Bill (HB) 453 (Chapter 059) State Board of Physicians - Inactive and Emeritus Status, effective October 1, 2023.** This bill authorizes the Board to issue an emeritus license status for retired physicians. Beginning October 1, 2023, retired physicians with at least ten years of service in Maryland may apply for emeritus status. To be eligible for an emeritus license, physicians cannot have been subject to disciplinary action that has resulted in revocation or suspension of their license at any time in any jurisdiction in which they have been licensed nor can they be under investigation by the Board. Emeritus physicians may not practice medicine or prescribe medications in Maryland but may retain their professional title and are exempt from standard renewal and continuing education requirements. Emeritus status will be reflected on the physician's practitioner profile.

**Senate Bill (SB) 232 (Chapter 303) / House Bill (HB) 172 (Chapter 302) Health Occupations - Licensed Athletic Trainers - Dry Needling Approval, effective October 1, 2023.** This bill allows the Board to approve licensed athletic trainers to perform dry needling as a specialized task. To be eligible for approval, licensed athletic trainers must complete 80 hours of instruction in approved continuing education courses, 40 of which must be hands-on practical training.

**Senate Bill (SB) 859 (Chapter 246) / House Bill (HB) 808 (Chapter 247) Reproductive Health Protection Act, effective June 1, 2023.** This bill states that a health occupations board may not revoke, suspend, discipline, take adverse action against, or refuse to issue or renew a license, certification, or other authorization to practice, or take reciprocal disciplinary action with another State's health occupation board, if the health care practitioner provided and/or supported legally protected health care in accordance with the standard of care and in accordance with Maryland's laws.

**Senate Bill (SB) 187 (Chapter 375) / House Bill (HB) 454 (Chapter 376) Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Lawful Presence and Identification Numbers, effective October 1, 2023.** This bill prohibits a health occupations board from requiring that an applicant provide proof that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States or has a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number as a condition for licensure, certification, or registration, and requires each health occupations board to require each applicant for a license to disclose the Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number of the applicant or, as permitted by federal law, provide alternative documentation.

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