

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison

FROM: Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise

DATE: February 27, 2013

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – House Bill 1313 – *State Board of Physicians – Consultation, Qualification for Licensure, License Renewal, and Representation to the Public*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1313 with amendments.

House Bill 1313 addresses several matters regarding the Board of Physicians and its licensing of physicians. First, it moves the existing definition of “Board Certified” into a different section of the Title 14. Second, it provides requirements for “consulting physicians,” which was an issue raised in the Sunset Report. Finally, it addresses an issue regarding physicians who failed the USMLE exam 3 or more times.

The first of MedChi’s two amendments is in regard to consulting physicians. On Page 5 at line 4 and line 30, a consulting physician is permitted to practice within the State for 14 days. Presumably, this would be for one period of 14 days and not a “series” of 14 day periods, but the bill is not specific in that regard. The concern is that without a specific limitation, this presumably “limited” period could be abused.

Separately, with respect to license renewal on Page 8, the bill as amended permits the Board to send renewal notices by electronic mail **ONLY** if it so desires. An amendment permitting a licensee to request a written renewal notice by first-class mail should be included as follows:

(OVER)

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
House Bill 1313
Page Two

On Page 8, at line 4, insert “SUBJECT TO (C)” before “at.” After line 13, insert “IF REQUESTED BY THE LICENSEE, THE BOARD SHALL SEND A RENEWAL NOTICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL.”

With these amendments, MedChi supports House Bill 1313.

For more information call:

Joseph A. Schwartz, III
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
410-244-7000