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House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
House Health Committee
February 17, 2026
House Bill 420 – *Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act*
POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** House Bill 420.

This legislation would allow an active service member or their spouse who is licensed as a health professional in another state but on duty here in Maryland to practice under their license from the other state, without becoming licensed here. While we agree that Maryland has a substantial physician shortage and bringing qualified physicians into Maryland should be of the highest priority, patients also must be protected through our laws governing the practice of medicine.

Our read of House Bill 420 is that while it requires the Maryland Board of Physicians (“Board”) to recognize out of state physicians, it does not provide it with the authority to take disciplinary action against the physician if there is misconduct. No one wants to think of these scenarios, and they are rare, but they do occur, and when they occur, harmed patients expect the Board to be able to take immediate action.

We are also aware that there is a federal statute which addresses this subject matter. However, we believe there are some constitutional questions about whether the federal government can dictate licensure terms, which are generally among those powers reserved to the states.

Finally, and perhaps most important, Maryland already has a statute requiring expedited licensure for military members and their spouses. This statute appears on p. 49 of House Bill 420. We think this process is the right one because it ensures that members of the military and their spouses are expeditiously licensed, but it also ensures that the Board has authority over physician licensees when misconduct occurs.

For these reasons, we ask the Committee to oppose House Bill 420.

For more information call:

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