

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 AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1115 – *Health Occupations Boards – License Renewal, Investigation of Alleged Violations, and Immunity from Liability*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1115 with amendment.

This legislation pertains mostly to licensed health professions other than physicians. It affects physicians in one respect however, and that is regarding license renewal.

New Section 1-220 requires each health occupations board to develop a system for distributing renewal notices electronically. The Board of Physicians Sunset Report notes that in recent years nearly 100% of physicians have renewed online, and MedChi fully supports this approach because it is effective for licensees and efficient for the Board.

However, MedChi believes that a mechanism should exist whereby a physician can still request to receive by mail a written renewal notice. The reasons for this may be that the physician will be working abroad and not have access to a computer, or various other reasons. But the legislation, as drafted, would allow the boards to completely discontinue the practice of mailing written notices and would not recognize that circumstances may exist, however uncommon they may be, that would require a written notice. Accordingly, MedChi urges the following amendments:

(OVER)

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman
House Bill 1115
Page Two

On Page 3, line 7, insert “SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH 4,” prior to “discontinue.” On the same page at the end of line 18, insert “AND 4) CONTINUE TO SEND BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL A RENEWAL APPLICATION IF REQUESTED BY THE LICENSEE.”

With these amendments, MedChi supports this legislation.

For more information call:

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