



Senate Bill 234: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Position: *Support*

Bill Summary

SB 234 would allow Maryland to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to strengthen access to health care by developing a comprehensive process to complement existing licensing and regulatory authority and provide a streamlined method to allow physicians to become licensed in multiple states; requiring a physician to meet certain eligibility requirements to receive certain licensure; requiring physicians to designate a certain state as the state of principal license for purposes of registration for certain expedited licensure; etc.

MHA Position

Maryland's hospitals support measures that bolster the strength of the health care workforce. Streamlining the process for physicians to become licensed in multiple states holds the potential to improve access to care, particularly for specialized services.

While this compact will remove burdens for physicians to acquire licensure in multiple states, there are several protections in place to ensure Maryland's standards are maintained:

- Participation in the compact is strictly voluntary for both physicians and state boards of medicine and in no way alters Maryland's existing Medical Practice Act.
- Because the practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at the time of an encounter with a doctor, physicians would remain under the jurisdiction of the state medical board where the patient is located.
- State boards participating in the compact are required to share complaint/investigative information with each other.

This compact is an important and timely tool to expedite the licensure process and expand access to care.

For these reasons, we urge you to give SB 234 a *favorable* report.