

MDH - Regulatory Services - Health Professional Boards and Commissions

MISSION

The mission of the health occupations boards is to protect the citizens of Maryland through the promotion of quality healthcare. This is achieved through maintenance of efficient licensure systems for healthcare professionals; promotion of disciplinary practices that contribute to an overall culture of accountability; education of clients and other stakeholders; and enforcement of applicable laws and statutes.

VISION

Maryland is a state where healthcare professionals are well qualified, where healthcare professionals want to live and practice, and where citizens are informed about the qualifications of their healthcare practitioners.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. To protect the public and promote quality healthcare by providing an effective and efficient licensure system for health professionals regulated by the State.

Obj. 1.1 Annually issue initial licenses to 95 percent of qualified applicants within ten days of receipt of the last qualifying document, or to improve upon that standard if it has already been met.

Board/ Commission	2019 Act.		2020 Act.		2021 Act.		2022 Act.	
	New	% Obj	New	% Obj	New	% Obj	New	% Obj
Acupuncture	134	100%	105	100%	102	100%	127	100%
Audiologists	431	95%	390	100%	444	100%	850	100%
Chiropractic	155	97%	118	100%	146	100%	145	100%
Dental	910	29%	774	3%	843	13%	843	13%
Dietetic	296	100%	240	100%	365	100%	362	100%
Environmental Health	37	100%	35	100%	18	100%	28	100%
Kidney Disease	2	100%	6	100%	3	100%	4	100%
Massage Therapy	311	91%	226	97%	181	100%	170	100%
Medical Cannabis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morticians	146	100%	100	100%	37	100%	129	100%
Nursing: RN	5,385	99%	4,737	99%	5,560	91%	4,819	97%
Nursing: LPN	620	99%	558	98%	561	100%	519	97%
Nursing Home Admin	32	100%	23	100%	30	100%	30	100%
Occupational Therapy	415	92%	346	95%	371	96%	455	98%
Optometry	50	100%	63	100%	65	100%	42	100%
Pharmacy	3,531	54%	2,994	52%	3,465	58%	3,057	94%
Physical Therapy	706	100%	593	100%	721	100%	721	100%
Physicians and Allied Health	2,930	98%	3,042	100%	3,270	100%	4,226	99%
Podiatric	65	100%	60	100%	55	100%	40	100%
Prof. Counselors/Therapists	1,983	100%	1,521	100%	1,787	88%	1,095	156%

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	New	% Obj	New	% Obj	New	% Obj	New	% Obj
Psychologists	241	100%	257	100%	274	100%	310	100%
Residential Child Care	956	100%	535	100%	180	100%	359	100%
Social Work	1,524	89%	1,414	74%	2,045	91%	1,886	99%

Obj. 1.2 Annually issue renewal licenses to 90 percent of qualified Board of Nursing applicants and 95 percent of all other Board applicants within five days of receipt of the last qualifying document, or to improve upon that standard if it has already been met.

Board/ Commission	2019 Act.		2020 Act.		2021 Act.		2022 Act.	
	Renewal	% Obj	Renewal	% Obj	Renewal	% Obj	Renewal	% Obj
Acupuncture	502	100%	477	100%	546	100%	511	100%
Audiologists	2,224	50%	2,052	99%	2,380	67%	2,324	52%
Chiropractic	604	95%	923	99%	543	100%	904	100%
Dental	7,346	5%	3,999	3%	4,249	3%	4,249	3%
Dietetic	728	100%	746	100%	882	100%	812	100%
Environmental Health	451	100%	5	100%	497	100%	2	100%
Kidney Disease	143	99%	146	100%	147	100%	147	100%
Massage Therapy	3,888	95%	27	100%	3,753	100%	8	100%
Medical Cannabis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morticians	1,795	100%	375	100%	473	100%	699	100%
Nursing: RN	38,358	84%	36,947	89%	42,331	90%	40,615	93%
Nursing: LPN	5,410	80%	4,821	85%	5,417	86%	5,242	86%
Nursing Home Admin	226	100%	222	100%	205	100%	224	100%
Occupational Therapy	1,984	97%	1,767	97%	2,117	95%	2,138	100%
Optometry	407	100%	510	100%	419	100%	516	91%
Pharmacy	10,335	89%	13,482	84%	12,683	83%	13,306	86%
Physical Therapy	3,378	100%	4,083	100%	4,239	100%	4,239	100%
Physicians and Allied Health	25,549	100%	17,060	100%	29,759	100%	17,641	100%
Podiatric	490	100%	449	100%	451	100%	474	100%
Counselors/Therapists	5,158	100%	2,853	100%	3,645	99%	3,980	96%
Psychologists	1,532	100%	1,607	100%	1,636	100%	1,690	100%
Residential Child Care	531	100%	450	100%	464	100%	397	100%
Social Work	5,149	98%	6,142	97%	6,453	95%	6,514	100%

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Goal 2. To protect the public and promote quality healthcare by maintaining an effective and efficient disciplinary system for healthcare professionals regulated by the State.

Obj. 2.1 Annually improve the percent of complaint investigations completed* by the Board of Physicians and Board of Nursing** to 90 percent within 540 days, and by all other boards and commissions to 100 percent within 180 days.

Board/ Commission	2019 Act.			2020 Act.			2021 Act.			2022 Act.		
	Complaints		%	Complaints		%	Complaints		%	Complaints		%
	Invest.	Completed	Completed Timeframe	Invest.	Completed	Completed Timeframe	Invest.	Completed	Completed Timeframe	Invest.	Completed	Completed Timeframe
Acupuncture	12	6	50%	7	7	100%	1	1	100%	6	5	83%
Audiologists	39	35	85%	34	28	68%	27	25	89%	20	19	95%
Chiropractic	57	44	77%	25	15	60%	36	35	97%	19	16	84%
Dental	299	228	63%	174	72	26%	112	166	37%	120	166	34%
Dietetic	16	13	81%	10	11	110%	10	11	100%	13	13	100%
Environmental Health	3	1	33%	2	0	0%	2	2	100%	7	6	100%
Kidney Disease	21	21	100%	19	19	79%	27	27	100%	20	20	100%
Massage Therapy	77	74	95%	26	15	73%	32	30	94%	28	25	89%
Medical Cannabis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morticians	86	79	57%	50	47	100%	38	36	100%	33	27	100%
Nursing: RN	570	125	4%	556	420	32%	114	422	68%	315	315	100%
Nursing Home Admin	19	36	100%	19	52	100%	32	14	16%	52	33	100%
Occupational Therapy	6	5	100%	47	39	87%	25	24	76%	50	49	96%
Optometry	17	11	65%	15	15	87%	15	15	100%	15	13	87%
Pharmacy	406	348	80%	491	455	88%	298	205	88%	526	312	41%
Physical Therapy	43	37	100%	30	32	100%	26	13	50%	26	13	50%
Physicians and Allied Health	1,190	1,190	93%	864	1,176	100%	728	897	100%	752	920	100%
Podiatric	30	26	87%	21	21	114%	36	36	100%	20	20	100%
Counselors/Therapists	273	146	53%	220	111	50%	255	76	50%	217	161	52%
Psychologists	15	11	100%	26	13	100%	16	16	100%	7	7	100%
Residential Child Care	2	1	0%	2	2	100%	4	4	100%	6	6	100%
Social Work	71	97	75%	95	87	65%	59	114	92%	91	76	47%

* % Completed Timeframe column is the percent of complaints investigated that meet the timeliness standards outlined in Objective 2.1.

** Statute mandates that the Board of Physicians complete investigations within 540 days and the Board of Nursing complete investigations within 270 days.

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Obj. 2.2 Annually, the Board of Physicians will resolve 95 percent of preliminary investigations within 150 days.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Physicians/Allied Health new complaints resolved within 150 days	1,204	1,107	864	711	288	700	701
Percent of preliminary investigations resolved within target timeframe	98%	93%	95%	98%	76%	98%	98%

Goal 3. To protect the public and promote quality healthcare by ensuring the delivery of quality nursing education and nursing assistant training through monitoring and enforcement of standards.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
RN/LPN Programs: Number of programs with graduates testing	41	41	40	42	40	40	40
Percent of schools meeting pass rate	88%	85%	87%	91%	89%	90%	90%
Nursing Assistant Programs: Number of programs with graduates testing	150	133	97	97	97	98	100
² Percent of schools meeting pass rate - written	90.6%	90.6%	84.0%	89.6%	N/A	90.0%	90.0%
² Percent of schools meeting pass rate - skills	82.7%	83.7%	70.0%	81.1%	N/A	75.0%	80.0%

Goal 4. To protect and promote quality healthcare by ensuring that qualifying patients have access to medical cannabis. This will be achieved through the licensure and monitoring of medical cannabis growers, processors and dispensaries; the maintenance of an effective system for registering and monitoring qualifying patients and caregivers; and the maintenance of a system for registering authorized health professionals to provide qualifying patients with written certifications of the need for medical cannabis.

Obj. 4.1 Annually, 100 percent of qualified physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and podiatrists will be registered within one business day of filing a complete application.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of physicians registered	645	829	946	694	672	1,251	1,251
Percentage of physicians registered within one business day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of dentists registered	55	100	124	68	83	194	194
Percentage of dentists registered within one business day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of podiatrists registered	10	17	22	20	16	40	40
Percentage of podiatrists registered within one business day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives registered	279	516	802	9	817	102	102
Percentage of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives registered within one business day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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Obj. 4.2 Annually, 90 percent of qualifying patients and caregivers will be registered within ten days of filing a complete application.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of qualifying patients registered	52,985	101,409	139,025	244,929	208,340	250,000	250,000
Percentage of qualifying patients registered within ten days	90%	85%	80%	80%	90%	95%	95%
Number of caregivers registered	3,044	6,524	8,135	8,896	7,790	10,457	10,457
Percentage of caregivers registered within ten days	90%	85%	85%	90%	90%	95%	95%

Obj. 4.3 Annually, to ensure access to medical cannabis for qualifying patients, the Commission will issue licenses to the maximum number of medical cannabis growers, processors, and dispensaries.

Performance Measures	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Growers licensed (15 maximum)	15	16	17	18	18	22	22
Processors licensed (15 maximum)	15	17	17	18	18	28	28
Dispensaries licensed (109 maximum)	67	82	92	95	97	102	102

NOTES

¹ The board has narrowed the definition of a complaint as one the board has jurisdiction to investigate.

² FY 2022 actuals are unavailable.