



February 4, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support– HB 262: Criminal Procedure - Examination of Defendant by Maryland  
Department of Health - Access to Judicial Records

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a state medical organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, MPS works to ensure available, accessible and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branch of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland excluding the D.C. suburbs, MPS represents over 700 psychiatrists as well as physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS supports House Bill 262 (HB 262) for it will assist the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) with supervising and monitoring those found Not Criminally Responsible or Incompetent to Stand Trial (collectively referred to herein as insanity acquittees) in the community. HB 262 would give MDH access to vital information, namely arrest and court supervision documentation, of insanity acquittees in the community that will provide the necessary insight to MDH as to whether these acquittees are following the conditions of their hospital release. Furthermore, information from the Maryland Judiciary is essential for it will ensure that court-ordered evaluations contain accurate information and that mandated forensic reports are submitted to the court in time to prepare for hearings.

For the reasons stated above, MPS supports HB 262 and asks the committee for a favorable report.

If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Legislative Action Committee for the Maryland Psychiatric Society