



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

---

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [www.mota-members.com](http://www.mota-members.com)

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 791 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2024

**Position:** Support

---

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 791 - *Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions*. The bill would alter the requirements for providers and carriers related to health insurance utilization review which would include the provisions regarding benchmarks for standardizing and automating the preauthorization process, and the online preauthorization system for payors, and preauthorization for prescription drugs, and private review agents. Additionally, the bill would alter the timelines related to internal grievance procedures and adverse decision procedures.

Occupational therapy services are effective in assisting individuals to manage chronic conditions more effectively, thereby improving their quality of life and ability to engage in meaningful occupations, while decreasing frequency of medical interventions. The bill also requires carriers to eliminate “homegrown” medical criteria in favor of requiring carriers to utilize criteria and standards that are developed by a nonprofit medical or clinical specialty societies or organizations that work directly with health care providers in the same specialty relevant to the clinical diagnosis. This will help establish uniformity between insurance carriers. Additionally, the bill requires mandating that a “peer to peer” must occur if requested by the health care provider and that the licensed provider must not only be board certified or eligible in the same specialty but also knowledgeable about the requested health care service or treatment through actual clinical experience. This again will help establish uniformity among insurance carriers and would make the denial process more transparent.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).