

# **SB210.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amanda Wensel

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 210**

**Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

**Position: Support**

01/22/2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

On behalf of the Baltimore County Fire Department, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland Paramedics ability to vaccinate the public. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2025. Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need. As you may or may not be aware, the Baltimore County Fire Department operates a Mobile integrated Healthcare program. One of the core functions of Mobile Integrated Healthcare is the ability to perform Community Immunizations for those individuals who lack the ability to obtain them through physical or fiscal limitations. As we move forward, we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

For these reasons, Baltimore County Fire Department respectfully requests a favorable position to legislation to codify the ability for Maryland Paramedics to perform community immunizations.

For more information, please contact:



Captain Amanda Wensel, NRP

Mobile Integrated Health Coordinator

410-887-8114

# **SB 210- Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics -**

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland  
Hospital Association

January 22, 2024

To: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 210- Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics -  
Immunization Administration - Effective Date

Dear Chair Beidle:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 62 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 210.

Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency. In 2021 and 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to extend the sunset. SB 210 would extend the date the law is set to sunset from Jan. 1, 2025 to Jan. 1, 2030.

Maryland EMS paramedics have been [instrumental](#) in providing access to vaccinations statewide. During just part of 2021, EMS clinicians administered more than 80,000 vaccinations to community members and 21,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to state, county, and local government public safety personnel.

Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to serve a critical public need.

For these reasons, MHA respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 210.

For more information, please contact:  
Jane Krienke, Senior Analyst, Government Affairs  
Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

**Caroline DES Letter of Support Sentate Bill 210.pd**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Reibly

Position: FAV



**ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION**  
9391 Double Hills Road, Denton, Maryland 21629  
(410) 479-2622  
[www.carolinedes.org](http://www.carolinedes.org)

**Senate Bill 210  
Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date  
Position: Support**

January 21, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

On behalf of Caroline County Department of Emergency Services, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland Paramedics' ability to vaccinate the public. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2025. Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need. As you may or may not be aware, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services is in the process of developing a Mobile Integrated Healthcare program. One of the core functions of Mobile Integrated Healthcare is the ability to perform Community Immunizations for those individuals who lack the ability to obtain them through physical or fiscal limitations. As we move forward, we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

For these reasons, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services respectfully requests a favorable position to legislation to codify the ability for Maryland Paramedics to perform community immunizations.

For more information, please contact:

*Kathy Jo Marvel*  
*Division Chief*  
*Caroline County Department of Emergency Services*  
[kjmarvel@carolinemd.org](mailto:kjmarvel@carolinemd.org)  
*410-479-4161-office*

**SB0210-FIN\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kristina Curley

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 210**

*Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics -  
Immunization Administration - Effective Date*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: January 24, 2024

From: Kevin Kinnally and Kristina Curley

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 210, as it extends a critical initiative for local health departments to carry out targeted public health initiatives by authorizing paramedics to administer specified vaccines with proper training and oversight.

Local health departments play a vital role in providing immunization services, counseling, and controlling cases of vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, through collaborative efforts with state and local medical professionals, county governments, and other stakeholders, local health departments ensure effective immunization practices, disease surveillance and reporting, education and outreach, and program oversight.

SB 210 extends by five years the sunset on Chapter 404 of 2022, which authorizes a paramedic to administer influenza and COVID-19 immunizations as part of population health outreach efforts conducted by local health departments, hospitals, or health systems in the state. This authorization was initially set to terminate January 1, 2023, but was extended to January 1, 2025, in the 2022 session.

Under the law that SB 210 seeks to extend, vaccinations must be (1) provided under the direction of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operational program, ambulance service medical director, or other qualified physician, and authorized by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and (2) provided in accordance with a written agreement between the paramedic's EMS operational program or commercial EMS service and the appropriate local health department, hospital, or health system.

**MACo advocates that public health and emergency agencies be properly supported with necessary funds to support staff, services, supplies, and technology – not only in times of crisis – but for the everyday preventative and responsive health services they provide.**

SB 210 would advance local efforts to improve vaccination rates, providing one of the most successful and cost-effective services to prevent disease and death. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 210 a **FAVORABLE** report.



# **Immunization letter from MIH Committee Chair (Fina**

Uploaded by: Matthew Burgan

Position: FAV

# The Mobile Integrated Healthcare Subcommittee

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## A Subcommittee of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council for Maryland

### Senate Bill 210

Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date

Position: Support

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

My name is Matthew Burgan, Chair of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Subcommittee for the Statewide EMS Advisory Council, and on behalf of our committee, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 210, which aims to extend the approval for paramedics to administer COVID and influenza immunizations, as part of public health initiatives, to members of the various communities in our great state.

The role of paramedics in Maryland began to evolve in 2014 with the implementation of the first MIH and community paramedicine program in the state. Over the past decade this initiative has grown to include 13 EMS agencies and one commercial ambulance service in Maryland, with three more EMS agencies set to join in 2024. Many of these programs seek to address an increased demand for resources designed to respond to emergency medical calls for service. To better maintain availability of these limited, yet vital resources, MIH programs employ strategies based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's "Triple Aim", including improving the health of the communities they serve, while lowering the total cost of care provided, and ultimately enhancing the patient's experience.

One such strategy includes the delivery of immunizations by EMS responders as part of public health initiatives conducted in Maryland. This was outlined in the 2020 planning document "Mobile Integrated Healthcare Standards Workgroup Vision for the Future" as approved by the Maryland EMS Board. The COVID-19 pandemic response served as a catalyst to accelerate the process of allowing EMS agencies and MIH Programs to deliver vaccinations in the community. The accomplishments achieved by Maryland's Paramedics since being provided the legislative authority to administer the COVID and influenza vaccines demonstrates that they can be administered efficiently, successfully, and safely. Furthermore, the response to the COVID pandemic and subsequent vaccination initiative prominently displayed the essential role that paramedics can play in enhancing public health outcomes when integrated in public health initiatives. This bill not only recognizes the competence and training of paramedics, but also addresses the pressing need for widespread immunization efforts that prioritize equal and equitable access to our state's fragile and oftentimes socioeconomically challenged residents.

Paramedics, as frontline healthcare clinicians, are uniquely positioned to reach these underserved populations and respond swiftly to community public health needs. By extending the authorization to administer immunizations as part of a public health initiative, we can significantly enhance our community's resilience against preventable diseases and protect our most vulnerable populations.

I urge you to consider the overwhelmingly positive impact that this bill can have on the health and well-being of all Marylanders. Your support for Senate Bill 210 will contribute to a more robust and responsive healthcare system, ensuring that we can better protect our residents from infectious diseases. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will champion the cause of public health by endorsing the extension of immunization approval for paramedics.

Respectfully,

*Matthew A Burgan*

Matthew A Burgan, Nationally Registered Paramedic  
Board Certified Community Paramedic  
410-365-2610

**Letter for SB210.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3565 • 301-858-3565  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565  
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

January 23, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for Senate Bill 210

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 210: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date. Requested by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, this bill will delay the effective date of January 1, 2030 repealing the authority given to paramedics to administer influenza and 2019CoV immunizations under circumstances.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 210 as it will continue to allow paramedics to assist residents in all areas of the state to be vaccinated against influenza and 2019CoV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

**Voting Organizations:**

**Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)**  
**Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)**  
**State Fire Marshal (OSFM)**  
**Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)**  
**Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)**  
**Metro Fire Chief's Association**  
**Professional Firefighters of Maryland**

**Our Mission Statement**

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.

# **Immunization letter for MIH Jurisdiction.pdf**

Uploaded by: Miranda Webster

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 210**

**Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

**Position: Support**

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

On behalf of the Salisbury Fire Department, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland Paramedics ability to vaccinate the public. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2025. Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need. As you may or may not be aware, the Salisbury Fire Department operates a Mobile integrated Healthcare program. One of the core functions of Mobile Integrated Healthcare is the ability to perform Community Immunizations for those individuals who lack the ability to obtain them through physical or fiscal limitations. As we move forward, we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

Since January 1, 2022, the Salisbury Fire Department’s Salisbury Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team (SWIFT) and Minor Definitive Care Now (MDCN) teams have given around 250 Flu, 100 Covid-19, and 15 Tetanus Vaccinations to the community experiencing various social determinants of health as well as protecting our own within the fire department with the help of this law.

For these reasons, the Salisbury Fire Department respectfully requests a favorable position to legislation to codify the ability for Maryland Paramedics to perform community immunizations.

For more information, please contact:

David Phippin, NRP CP-C

SWIFT Coordinator

443-235-7902

[dhippin@salisbury.md](mailto:dhippin@salisbury.md)

**OR**

Miranda Webster, NRP CP-C

MDCN Paramedic

443-944-2892

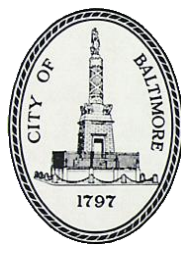
[mwebster@salisbury.md](mailto:mwebster@salisbury.md)

**SB210-FIN-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV





BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0210**

January 24, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 210 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 210.

SB 210 extends legal permission for paramedics to administer influenza, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis skin testing in a nonemergency setting. Importantly, it also extends the period for which paramedics may administer flu and COVID vaccines, most notably in the homebound setting.

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) partners with the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) to provide COVID vaccines for homebound residents. In 2023, BCFD administered 193 COVID vaccinations in partnership with BCHD. Allowing paramedics to continue providing these services means that influenza and COVID immunization for homebound residents will remain a cornerstone of our campaign to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

COVID and flu continue to infect people, with older adults and people with underlying conditions often most severely affected. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the level of COVID circulating in Maryland as “very high.”<sup>i</sup> The Maryland Department of Health has issued warnings to providers across the state about rising hospitalizations due to COVID and flu and has even recommended universal masking in clinical settings. It only makes sense to allow paramedics to keep vaccinating those most susceptible to respiratory diseases. Importantly, the Maryland health care workforce continues to face shortages.<sup>ii</sup> Extending the provisions allowing paramedics to continue providing COVID and flu vaccines will benefit residents statewide.

BCFD and BCHD share a vision of a healthy Baltimore City and a mission to bring health care to our residents where they need it most: in the home. Without the assistance of BCFD and their paramedics, BCHD would not be able to provide homebound vaccinations, leaving our most vulnerable residents at risk. SB 210 will allow us to continue this crucial work.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 210.

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). National Wastewater Surveillance System - COVID-19 Current Wastewater Viral Activity Levels Map. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nwss/rv/COVID19-currentlevels.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Maryland Hospital Association. (2022). 2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce Report. Retrieved from <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>

**SB219 testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

Chair

Legislative Committee

17 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

email: [rfcchief48@gmail.com](mailto:rfcchief48@gmail.com)

cell: 443-205-5030

Office: 410-974-2222

Fax: 410-974-3999

## **SB210 Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State FireFighter's Association (MSFA). The MSFA represents the 35,000 plus fire/EMS volunteers across the state of Maryland.

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 210: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

For the past several years paramedics have been able to administer Influenza, hepatitis B immunizations and tuberculosis skin testing, in a nonemergency environment. At the present time there is a sunset date of 2025 and all this bill does is to extend that sunset date to 2030. The MSFA is in full support of extending this date and allowing the paramedics to continue this valuable service to their communities.

The MSFA asks for your favorable vote on SB210

Thank you

**QAC SB 210 support letter.pdf**

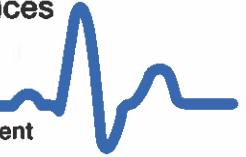
Uploaded by: Robert Yerkie

Position: FAV



Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services  
100 Communications Drive ♦ Centreville, Maryland 21617  
Phone 410.758.4500 ♦ Fax 410.758.2086

9-1-1 Communications ♦ Animal Control ♦ EMS ♦ Emergency Management  
Fire Marshal ♦ Support Services



**Senate Bill 210**  
**Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration**  
**Position: Support**

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

On behalf of the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland Paramedics ability to vaccinate the public. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2025. Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need.

As you may or may not be aware, the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services operates a Mobile integrated Healthcare program. One of the core functions of Mobile Integrated Healthcare is the ability to perform Community Immunizations for those individuals who lack the ability to obtain them through physical or fiscal limitations. As we move forward, we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable position to legislation to codify the ability for Maryland Paramedics to perform community immunizations.

For more information, please contact:

R. Zach Yerkie  
Assistant Chief of EMS  
410-758-4500, extension 1108  
[ryerkie@qac.org](mailto:ryerkie@qac.org)

Joseph Ciotola, MD  
EMS Medical Director and Health Officer  
410-758-0720  
[joseph.ciotolamd@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.ciotolamd@maryland.gov)

# 2024 MNA SB 210 Senate Side FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 210 – Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics -  
Immunization Administration - Effective Date

**Hearing Date:** January 24, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 210 – Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration - Effective Date*. This bill extends that statutory authorization for paramedics to provide COVID-19 and flu vaccines until January 1, 2030.

Paramedics are essential in the efforts of public health officials in reaching Marylanders in all parts of the state with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. There are simply not enough nurses or other licensed health care professionals to meet the need. This legislation is important in ensuring we have enough qualified people to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

**SB 210 - FIN -MDH-LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Case-Herron

Position: FAV





Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 210 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics - Immunization Administration- Effective Date – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 210 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date. This bill delays the effective date of certain provisions of law that repeal the authority of paramedics to administer influenza and 2019 CoV immunizations under certain circumstances and thereby extends that authority from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Based on the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Scope of Practice Model, and by virtue of their required education and skills training, Maryland paramedics are qualified to administer intramuscular injections and immunizations. Maryland paramedics are currently authorized to administer influenza and COVID -19 vaccines to individuals at least 18 years old when working in partnership with local health departments or a hospital/hospital systems. Since the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in early 2021, EMS personnel, through these partnerships, have safely vaccinated over 80,000 members of the public, along with an additional 21,000 State, county, and local government personnel.<sup>1</sup> This collaborative effort has provided vaccinations to specific, identified populations, as well as to individuals with limited access to vaccinations, strengthening Maryland's capacity to better protect residents against COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. MDH therefore supports SB 210, recognizing the importance of extending EMS authority to administer these vaccinations through January 1, 2030. This bill will not have a fiscal or operational impact on MDH.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case- Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). (2021). Use of Paramedics in Public Health Vaccination Programs Report: <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303>

**SB 210 - MACHO- FIN - LOS.doc.pdf**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



**2024 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** SB 210 - Emergency Medical Services- Paramedics- Immunization Administration- Effective Date

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance Committee

**POSITION:** Letter of Support

**BILL ANALYSIS:** SB 210 would delay the effective date to January 1, 2030, of certain provisions of law that repeal the authority of paramedics to administer influenza and 2019 CoV immunizations under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the authority of paramedics to administer immunizations.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) strongly supports SB 210. Paramedics play a crucial role in our healthcare system, and their ability to administer immunizations is a valuable asset to local public health in ensuring the health and well-being of our communities. The proposed delay in the effective date allows for a more measured transition and ensures that paramedics can continue to contribute to public health efforts without disruption.

For some of Maryland's smaller local health departments particularly, local paramedics have supplemented health department staffing at vaccination clinics, enabling the department to better meet the needs of their communities. Without their support, it would have been much more challenging to vaccinate citizens during the pandemic. These partnerships have been successful augmentations of the local public health response.

Given the ongoing challenges posed by infectious diseases, including influenza and COVID-19 virus, it is crucial to maintain all available resources for vaccination efforts. It helps safeguard the health and safety of our communities, maintains a robust immunization infrastructure and ensures a better response to public health challenges.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support for SB 210. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

# **SB 210\_EMS\_Paramedics\_Immunization Date\_MIEMSS\_Sup**

Uploaded by: Theodore Delbridge

Position: FAV



*State of Maryland*  
**Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems**

Wes Moore  
Governor

Clay B. Stamp  
Chairman, EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

**Senate Bill 210: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics –  
Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

**MIEMSS Position: Support**

**Bill Summary:** SB 210 extends the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system until January 1, 2030.

**Rationale:**

- Chapter 799 of the Laws of 2021 authorized Paramedics to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a local health department or a Maryland hospital or hospital system (SB 67 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccine Administration) until January 1, 2023. Chapter 404 of the Laws of 2022 (HB 404) subsequently extended the ability of Paramedics to administer these immunizations until January 1, 2025.
- During the height of the COVID Pandemic, EMS administered over 80,000 vaccinations to members of the general public as part of public health outreach conducted in partnership with local health departments and hospitals / hospital systems and an additional 21,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to State, county and local government employees during that same time period. Nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulances services participated in the COVID-19 vaccination effort. See report at: <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303> (see over).
- The need continues. During the past year, eight (8) EMS jurisdictions have partnered with local health departments to administer COVID and/or influenza vaccines, including Baltimore City Fire Department which administered more than 1100 influenza vaccines.
- As frontline healthcare practitioners, Paramedics are uniquely positioned to reach underserved populations and respond swiftly to community public health needs.
- Given the uncertain trajectory of COVID-19 and the annual surge of seasonal influenza, Paramedics will be needed to continue to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and influenza immunizations to the general public as part of public health efforts.
- The ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations is an important part of public health vaccination outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system and should be extended.

**MIEMSS Supports SB 210 and Urges a Favorable Report**

**(See Next Page)**

653 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1536

[www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)

**EMS – Public Health Partnerships for  
COVID-19 and Influenza Immunizations**

In 2021, nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulance services began partnering with local health departments and hospital / hospitals systems to conduct public health outreach efforts to provide COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations to the public, including:

- Allegany County EMS
- City of Annapolis Fire Department EMS Division
- Anne Arundel County Fire Department
- Baltimore City Fire Department
- Baltimore County Fire Department
- Butler Medical Transport
- Calvert County Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Caroline County EMS
- Cecil County Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Charles County EMS
- Frederick County Fire & Rescue
- Hatzalah of Baltimore
- Garrett County EMS
- Howard County Fire & Rescue
- Maryland State Police Aviation Command
- Montgomery County Fire & Rescue
- Ocean City Fire Department
- Prince George's County Fire / EMS Department
- Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services
- Washington County Division of Emergency Services
- Wicomico County / Salisbury EMS

# **SB 210-Butler-Unfavorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jenna Butler

Position: UNF

**SB 210 / UNFAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee-

As a concerned Marylander, I'm writing to call for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 210. Maryland's current public health needs **do not** support extending the intended sunset date of January 1, 2025. Extending this emergency practice until 2030 with no clear justification serves no public good and is contradictory to the original intention of this measure.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to thoughtful, responsible policy for Maryland.

- Jenna DeCesaris Butler

Anne Arundel County, Maryland



# **Oppose SB 210.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mark Meyerovich

Position: UNF

# Oppose SB 210

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

There is no emergency to justify the additional burden on the paramedics to administer specific vaccines. It is well known that many injuries associated with receipt of vaccines are due to improper administration.

Administration of vaccines to patients without full knowledge of their medical conditions, assessing contraindications, or evaluating the condition of the patient following the administration of the vaccine significantly increases the risk. Adverse reactions may be undetected and unreported to their primary care provider. It becomes especially critical in the time of emergency or distress - the more likely times when the paramedics may treat patients.

Please reject unneeded emergency measures.

Sincerely,  
Mark Meyerovich  
Gaithersburg, MD

**Unfavorable SB210 Love Maryland PAC.pdf**

Uploaded by: MEGAN MONTGOMERY

Position: UNF

Love Maryland PAC

SB210- Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration

Unfavorable

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Love Maryland PAC writes to submit Unfavorable testimony for SB210. This bill is unnecessary. There is no longer any emergency regarding Covid or Influenza vaccinations that would call for the continuation of this emergency measure.

Vaccinations are prophylactic services; they are by their very nature non-emergent. During an emergency, the last thing anyone should be focused on is anything but getting the patient the best emergent care possible and transporting them to the appropriate treatment location. We should not be putting our paramedic emergency responders in a position where they are also trying to screen for vaccination need and appropriateness.

Vaccinations are pharmaceutical products that carry risks, precautions, contraindications and are capable to causing severe injuries including death if given inappropriately. How will a paramedic possibly have time or the attention span to ask someone who is bleeding, or unconscious, or having a heart attack in the back of the ambulance if they have an egg allergy? Or have had a bad reaction to a covid vaccination in the past that has required a doctor's intervention? Vaccines should be given under calm and planned circumstances. Even if a patient under paramedic transport needed a covid or influenza vaccination and it was appropriate that they get one, they are undoubtedly going to a hospital where those vaccinations can be given as appropriate and after proper assessment.

Covid and Influenza vaccinations are quite literally available on practically every street corner- every grocery store, every urgent care, every doctor's office, every drug store. There is no reason at all why the critical emergent services of our highly trained paramedics should be tied up with this bill.

Maryland is a state that needs every ambulance and trained paramedic we have to be at the ready for emergency services. I know in my neighborhood we are well aware of how thinly the health care system is staffed after covid. We do NOT need our precious emergency services tied up in time or attention doing the kind of routine, preventative care that can be done pretty much at any strip mall, and especially we do not need these lifesaving resources out and about in the community acting as mobile vaccination centers instead of being ready for actual emergencies.

For these reasons, the Love Maryland PAC asks for an unfavorable report on the bill. Thank you.

Megan Montgomery