

# MedChi

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*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

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DATE: March 8, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 995– *Health – Laser Hair Removal – Requirements*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** Senate Bill 995.

This legislation is framed as an effort to restrict laser hair removal from being performed by certain unqualified persons, but MedChi believes that some of the proposed changes provide weaker patient safety protections than existing regulations. That being said, we have been in contact with the proponents about potential changes to the bill, and we intend to continue those discussions.

COMAR 10.32.09.01 *et seq.* governs the delegation of cosmetic medical procedures by physicians. These regulations were adopted years ago following some extremely bad outcomes at medispas in the State, and the use of lasers to alter a person's appearance falls squarely within the regulations. Before a physician may allow any non-physician to conduct a cosmetic procedure, the *physician* must undergo special training. Only an accredited training program can satisfy this requirement. Then, before the physician can further delegate the performance of these procedures to anyone else, the physician must assure that the person has undergone proper theoretical instruction and have personally observed their clinical instruction, as spelled out in detail in the regulations. Physicians can be disciplined for not following these rules.

Senate Bill 995, as proposed, would loosen these requirements in two ways. First, it loosens the level of supervision required for non-physicians compared to the regulations. Under the regulations, the physician must supervise the procedure onsite with a limited exception for physician assistants. The bill proposes to use what amounts to general oversight. Second, the training required of non-physicians under the bill is ill defined, while the existing training for such personnel must be under the direct supervision of the physician. The procedure must be performed under that supervision a sufficient number of times to demonstrate proficiency.

For these reasons, MedChi does not support the bill as introduced. We will, however, continue to discuss the legislation with the proponents in search of a reasonable compromise that does not jeopardize patient safety.

Thank you for your consideration.