



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 393 Health Insurance - Scalp Cooling Systems - Required Coverage
Health and Government Operations**

I come to you to request your support for HB 393 which has been cross filed by Senator Dawn Gile SB 272.

This bill has received overwhelming bipartisan support because we recognize that cancer and chemotherapy induced hair loss does not discriminate.

Scalp cooling treatment is relatively unknown to the general public but this is a groundbreaking medical advancement that has been proven to significantly reduce one of the most visible and emotionally distressing side effects of chemotherapy—hair loss. Today, I urge you to support legislation that will expand access to this critical treatment, ensuring that all patients, regardless of their financial means, have the opportunity to preserve their dignity, confidence, and sense of self during one of the most challenging times of their lives.

Chemotherapy is a lifesaving treatment, but it comes at a significant cost—not just financially, but emotionally and physically. For many patients, hair loss is not just a cosmetic issue; it is a visible marker of illness that can impact mental health, self-esteem, and even employment opportunities. Studies have shown that scalp cooling systems, which work by reducing blood flow to hair follicles during chemotherapy, can significantly decrease hair loss, helping patients maintain a sense of normalcy and control.

Despite its proven effectiveness, scalp cooling treatment remains out of reach for too many patients due to high costs and lack of insurance coverage. This is unacceptable. No patient



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should have to forgo an effective treatment simply because they cannot afford it. We must act now to ensure that private insurance providers recognize scalp cooling as a medically necessary option and provide coverage accordingly.

For those who may not be familiar, this bill was introduced last session but did not pass because Maryland law required a cost analysis to determine the potential impact on health insurance premiums. I'm happy to share that the Maryland Health Care Commission completed that analysis in December 2025 and found that the cost impact is just pennies per member per month. In addition, the commission reported that the cost of scalp cooling is comparable to the cost of a prosthetic wig and reduces overall healthcare costs of mental health treatment for cancer patients and their families.

Supporting legislation for scalp cooling treatment is not just a matter of healthcare—it is a matter of compassion, equity, and empowerment. By passing this legislation, we will not only ease the emotional burden of cancer treatment but also reaffirm our commitment to patient-centered care. New York and Louisiana passed a similar bill last year, and my goal is for Maryland to lead the way as the next state to follow suit.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 393.