



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Date: Monday, March 2, 2020

Bill: House Bill 838 – Unregulated Space in Hospital Operating Suites Pilot Project Study

Committee: Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chairwoman

Position: Support

The Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) is a State component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The MSA represents physician anesthesiologists throughout the State of Maryland, and advocates policy that preserves the appropriateness and safety of the delivery of anesthesia care in Maryland. The Society is comprised of the physician anesthesiologists who practice within the State of Maryland. The MSA has an obligation to our members and more importantly our patients to play an active role in the upholding of the standard of quality medical care.

As introduced House Bill 838 “requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), in conjunction with the Maryland Health Care Commission and other relevant stakeholders, to study the feasibility and desirability of allowing for an unregulated space in a hospital operating room suite as a pilot project. HSCRC must report the findings of the study to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee of the General Assembly by June 30, 2021. The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.”

Medicine is evolving rapidly and many innovative procedures requiring anesthetic care are occurring outside of traditional operating rooms. More and more cases are being moved to outpatient settings due to a combination of factors including the Maryland-CMS Total Cost of Care hospital demonstration model. Ensuring safe patient care is the most fundamental aspect of health care delivery.

The MSA would like to participate in any stakeholder discussions or workgroups related to the development of a pilot program as laid out in HB 838 and contribute to innovative approaches to patient care.

We ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 838.