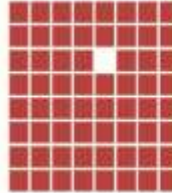




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Maryland Chapter
**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS**

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000

DATE: March 11, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1564 – *Public Health – Emergency Evaluations – Duties of Peace Officers and Emergency Facilities*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we submit this letter in support of House Bill 1564.

According to surveys by the national American College of Emergency Physicians and the Emergency Nurses Association, a staggering number of emergency physicians and nurses report being victims of violence. House Bill 1564 seeks to address the limited situation when an individual is brought to an emergency facility for an evaluation by a peace officer. Under current law, when a peace officer brings an emergency evaluatee to an emergency facility for an evaluation, a peace officer is not required to stay with the evaluatee unless specifically requested by the physician because the evaluatee is violent. However, often when an evaluatee is brought into the emergency facility, the physician may not be immediately available to request that the peace officer remain with the evaluatee. Therefore, House Bill 1564 recognizes this limitation and broadens the list of emergency facility personnel authorized to request that a peace officer stay with an emergency evaluatee. This list of emergency facility personnel includes a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or other advance practice professional employed or under contract with the emergency facility.

In addition, House Bill 1564 also will require, to the extent practicable, that a peace officer notify the emergency facility in advance that the peace officer is bringing an emergency evaluatee to the facility. This will better prepare the emergency facility to prepare for the arrival of the emergency evaluatee. MedChi and MDACEP urge a favorable vote on House Bill 1564.