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**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL NO: SB 748
COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
POSITION: SUPPORT

TITLE: Public Health – State Designated Exchange – Clinical Information

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Bill 748 (“SB 748”) requires a nursing home to electronically submit clinical health care information to the State designated health information exchange, Chesapeake Regional Informational System for our Patients (CRISP). The bill authorizes CRISP to provide health information to health care providers, health information exchange users, and state and federal officials to facilitate a state health improvement program, mitigate a public health emergency, and to improve patient safety. SB 748 also provides for the protection of health information by limiting redisclosure of financial transactions and medical billing, restricts access to patient data for patients who have opted out of record sharing, and restricts data from health care providers that possess sensitive health care information.

POSITION AND RATIONALE

The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “Commission”) supports SB 748.

CRISP, Maryland’s state designated health information exchange, plays a critical role in our health care system by facilitating the electronic exchange of health information among health care providers. The exchange of health information electronically allows doctors, nurses, pharmacists, other health care providers and patients to appropriately access and securely share a patient’s vital medical information improving the speed, quality, safety, and cost of patient care. The exchange of health information allows for the effective coordination of health care which leads to better efficiencies and patient outcomes.

CRISP has the infrastructure through the collection and electronic exchange of health information to overcome traditional challenges of caring for patients across organizations, such

Note: The Maryland Health Care Commission is an independent State agency, and the position of the Commission may differ from the position of the Maryland Department of Health.

as delayed reporting, incomplete information, repeat testing, and resource limitations, through a coordinated approach and information sharing. CRISP's Query Portal allows physicians and support staff to query patients they are treating to view clinical information from acute care hospitals in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Nursing homes are an important component of our health care system and requiring them to report health information to CRISP will serve to provide improved coordination of care. Health care providers for this population will have access to the nursing home health records and information across organizations giving them a comprehensive picture of the patient which can result in better accuracy of demographic and clinical information to support clinical care. The access to health information across health providers and organizations would also allow nursing homes to improve care coordination and as well as provide public health support for nursing homes for real-time monitoring of the facility, public health reporting requirements, safer transitions of care, enhanced hospital coordination, and targeted interventions for high-needs residents.

SB 748 also allows CRISP to combine other data maintained by the State to facilitate a state health improvement program, mitigate a public health emergency, and improve patient safety. Additionally, the bill provides consumer patient protections by allowing patients to opt out of the health information exchange, limiting the redisclosure of financial information, and restricting data from health care providers that possess sensitive health information.

SB 748 aligns with the objectives of the work of the state designated exchange and as well as the overall health system goals around the exchange of health information and health outcomes.

For these reasons the Commission asks for a favorable report on SB 748.