

HB 286 Emergency Medical Services Paramedics Immun

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 286 - Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration
- Effective Date**

Position: *Support*
March 24, 2022
Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 286. Paramedics have been able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations, first under the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency and then under Chapter 799 of 2021. However, that law is set to sunset Jan. 1, 2023.

Maryland needs every available qualified practitioner to be able to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines to adequately meet the public health need. HB 286 extends the sunset to Jan. 1, 2026.

As we move toward the next phase of COVID-19 we need to encourage all eligible Marylanders to be fully vaccinated and make vaccination convenient and available. To achieve this, we must ensure public health vaccination efforts have adequate staffing in place.

For these reasons, MHA respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 286.

For more information, please contact:
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HFAM Testimony HB 286_Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

March 24, 2022

House Bill 286: Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration - Effective Date
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 286. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

Last session, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that authorized a paramedic to administer flu and COVID-19 immunizations as a part of population health outreach efforts conducted by local health departments and health systems in Maryland. Currently, this authorization ends January 1, 2023. House Bill 286 would allow paramedics to continue administering flu and COVID-19 vaccinations for three additional years, until January 1, 2026.

In our fight against the COVID-19 virus, vaccines work. The vaccines are highly effective in preventing people from getting sick or seriously ill from COVID-19 and in slowing the spread of the virus. The vaccines are the best tool we have as new, more contagious, and threatening variants of the virus begin to emerge.

As we begin to navigate a new normal post-pandemic environment, we must ensure that all Marylanders have access to vaccinations. It is critical that we continue public health outreach efforts to mitigate vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates. Allowing paramedics to administer flu and COVID-19 immunizations is an important component to these efforts. Through September 1, 2021, Maryland EMS clinicians have administered more than 100,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. With passage of this legislation, they will be able to continue this important work.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 286.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
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HB0286-EHE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FAV



House Bill 286

Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective Date

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Date: March 24, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 286, as it would extend a critical initiative for local health departments to carry out targeted public health initiatives by authorizing paramedics to administer specified vaccines with proper training and oversight.

Local health departments play a vital role in providing immunization services, counseling, and controlling cases of vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, through collaborative efforts with state and local medical professionals, county governments, and other stakeholders, local health departments ensure effective immunization practices, disease surveillance and reporting, education and outreach, and program oversight.

HB 286 would extend by three years the sunset on Chapter 799 of 2021, which authorized paramedics to administer vaccines on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended adult immunization schedule if the services are part of a public safety or commercial emergency medical services (EMS) occupational health program or a population health outreach effort conducted by local health departments, hospitals, or health systems in the state.

Under the law that HB 286 seeks to extend, vaccinations must be (1) provided under the direction of the EMS operational program, ambulance service medical director, or other qualified physician and authorized by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and (2) provided in accordance with a written agreement between the paramedic's EMS operational program or commercial EMS service and the appropriate local health department, hospital, or health system.

MACo advocates that public health and emergency agencies be properly supported with necessary funds to support staff, services, supplies, and technology – not only in these times of crisis – but for the everyday preventative and responsive health services they provide.

HB 286 would advance local efforts to improve vaccination rates, providing one of the most successful and cost-effective services to prevent disease and death. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 286 a **FAVORABLE** report.

2022 MNA HB 286 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Education, Health , and Environmental Affairs

Bill Number: House Bill 286

Title: Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Immunization Administration - Effective Date

Hearing Date: March 24, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) strongly supports *House Bill 286 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Immunization Administration – Effective date*. The bill extends that statutory authorization for paramedics to provide COVID-19 and flu vaccines until January 1, 2026.

This past year, paramedics have been essential in the efforts of public health officials in reaching Marylanders in all parts of the state with COVID-19 vaccines. There are simply not enough nurses or other licensed health care professionals to provide vaccines in emergency circumstances. Since approximately 25% of Marylanders remain unvaccinated, we will need to extend our state’s vaccination efforts. This legislation is important in ensuring we have enough qualified people to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

HB 286_EMS-Paramedics_Immunization Date_MIEMSS_Sup

Uploaded by: Theodore Delbridge

Position: FAV



State of Maryland

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**House Bill 286
Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics –
Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: HB 286 extends until January 1, 2025, the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system.

Rationale:

- Chapter 799 of the Laws of 2021 authorized Paramedics to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a local health department or a Maryland hospital or hospital system (SB 67 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccine Administration).
- Unless extended, on January 1, 2023, Paramedics' authorization to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of these efforts will expire.
- From the time the COVID-19 vaccine became available in early 2021 through September 1, 2021, EMS administered over 80,000 vaccinations to members of the general public as part of public health outreach conducted in partnership with local health departments and hospitals / hospital systems. Nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulances services participated in the COVID-19 vaccination effort. See <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303> and See Examples of Maryland Paramedic Vaccinations Efforts (over)
- EMS administered an additional 21,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to State, county and local government employees during that same time period.
- Given the uncertain trajectory of COVID-19 and the annual surge of seasonal influenza, Paramedics may be needed to continue to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and influenza immunizations to the general public as part of public health efforts beyond January 1, 2023.
- HB 286 would extend to January 1, 2025, the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health vaccination outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system.

**MIEMSS Supports HB 286 and Urges a Favorable Report
(See Over)**

COVID-19 Public Health Vaccination Efforts using Maryland EMS Paramedics (2021) –

Examples

<u>EMS Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Populations Served</u>
Anne Arundel Co Fire Dept	County School Teachers; public safety personnel
Baltimore City Fire Dept	Homebound in Baltimore City
Baltimore Co Fire Dept	Underserved populations in Dundalk, Turner’s Station and Randallstown; homebound individuals; State Fairgrounds in Timonium; CCBC Essex; White Marsh (formerly Sears)
Carroll Co Dept of Fire & EMS	Public safety; county employees; general public
Charles Co Fire Dept	Mobile Integrated Health patients; public safety
Cecil Co Dept of Emerg Svc	Home visits; group homes
Howard Co Dept of Fire/Res	Homebound and group living
Montgomery Co Fire/Rescue Svc	General public and public safety personnel at vaccination sites at Montgomery County Community College (Germantown); White Oak Rec Center; Upper County Rec Center; Richard Montgomery High School; Quince Orchard High School; DHHS HQ on Dennis Ave; also assisted living facilities; homeless shelters; women’s shelter
Ocean City Fire Dept	Roland Powell Convention Center; Northside Park; county health department clinic in Snow Hill
Prince George’s Co Fire / EMS	Public safety and priority populations (70+ years); Prince George’s Health Dept; Prince George’s Learning Complex in Landover (near FedEx field)

AK HB0286 Testimony for Senate hearing.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Kaiser

Position: FWA

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Health and Government
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Rules and Executive
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of

**House Bill 286: Emergency Medical Services Paramedics - Immunization Administration -
Effective Date
March 24, 2022**

Chair Pinsky and esteemed members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 286: Emergency Medical Services Paramedics - Immunization Administration - Effective Date**. If enacted, this bill would extend the sunset for allowing EMS personnel to provide COVID and flu vaccines until January 1, 2025.

Current law, as amended last year, permitted EMS personnel this responsibility through January 1, 2023, under the direction of the EMS Operational Program, Ambulance Service Medical Director, or other qualified positions. That law also extended the ability to vaccinate, to paramedics working from commercial ambulance services. If enacted, **HB 286** will keep those provisions and extend the sunset for 2 more years.

We are not staking out new ground. In addition to the law passed last year, for over 2 decades, paramedics have been allowed to administer influenza and hepatitis B immunizations in addition to TB skin testing. With the scare of COVID-19 and the rush of people lining up for vaccines last year, this legislation proved vital in serving the health needs of Marylanders.

Like you, I am hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic will end soon, thus obviating the need for this bill. And thankfully, COVID-19 patterns are trending downwards. However, this bill provides a safeguard and will allow EMS providers to continue to respond to ongoing challenges and support much-needed public health initiatives. In doing so, this bill may still alleviate possible burdens placed upon local health authorities and hospitals, who should focus on critical care issues. Additionally, it is important to note that there were not any negative repercussions from last year's law.

Overall, the need to vaccinate the general public may continue for longer than we all hope. House Bill 286 expands the concept of "mobile integrated health" to 2025 - a concept that has become key during the ongoing state of emergency. We've done it, we're doing it, and we're successful.

The only amendment from the House was making it a 2 year sunset, rather than a 3 year sunset. The bill passed 19-4 in committee and by a vote of 108-22 in the full House of Delegates.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 286**. Thank you.