



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:
Erin Dorrien, Director, Government Affairs & Policy
Edorrien@mhaonline.org