

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 22, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 984 – *Public Health – State Designated Exchange – Health Data Utility*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 984. Senate Bill 984 establishes a health data utility that will be operated by the State designated health information exchange for the purpose of enabling health care practitioners to have access to comprehensive patient medication histories. The bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, to adopt regulations to carry out the requirements of the bill.

Since 2009, the State's designated health information exchange has been CRISP. It is our understanding that CRISP is putting forth a series of amendments. MedChi supports these amendments. A repository, as envisioned by Senate Bill 984, will provide health care practitioners with a patient's accurate medication history. Too often, especially in emergency or acute situations, patients either accidentally omit medications that they are taking or provide inaccurate dosage information. At times, patients may also be using more than one pharmacy to fill their prescriptions. Having a state repository, like the PDMP, will minimize the potential for medication errors and adverse drug interactions.

As emphasized in the amendments, MedChi urges that the electronic reporting system avoid duplication and that the electronic means and manner integrates, to the extent permissible, with current systems. MedChi looks forward to continuing to work with MHCC and CRISP as it develops regulations to implement this public health measure.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000