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Health and Government Operations  
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Public Health and  
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Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB493 Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland**

**Appropriations Committee**

**March 9, 2023**

The intent of this bill is to establish a commission to study how trauma centers are funded across the state to include:

- Current funding sources for trauma centers
- Trauma Fund expenditures and revenues since inception
- Statutory and regulatory requirements for trauma centers when the funding statute was originally passed
- Changes to statutory or regulatory requirements for trauma centers since the original funding statute
- Changes in staffing, recruitment, compensation, or other factors that would impact the funding needed to operate a trauma center
- Changes to approved uses of the Trauma Fund over time

Currently, our trauma centers rely on the Maryland Trauma Physician Fund for uncompensated care, Medicaid-enrolled patients, trauma related on-call and standby expenses, and trauma equipment grants.

This fund was enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2003. It established a formula for reimbursing trauma centers for on-call physician expenses. The legislation also directed the HSCRC to allow trauma center hospitals to include trauma-related standby expenses in the HSCRC approved hospital rates. The fund is financed through a \$5 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations and renewals which has not increased since its inception.

There has been some modification to the Fund since its inception. There have been market conditions that have affected the Fund both positively and negatively. Without a doubt, the costs to maintain either a Level I, II or III have increased significantly since 2003.

We need to address trauma funding to ensure that all of our state-wide trauma centers can remain fiscally strong, viable and remain open to service the citizens of Maryland.

**I respectfully ask the Committee for a FAVORABLE vote on HB293.**