



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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House Bill 675
Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: HB 675 establishes a Commission to study the adequacy of funding for designated trauma centers for their operating, capital and workforce costs. The Commission must report findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2023.

Rationale:

- Maryland's statewide trauma system includes adult trauma and pediatric trauma centers that provide life-saving care to critically injured Maryland patients. Nearly 25,000 patients are treated in Maryland's trauma centers each year. Maryland's trauma system was the first to be established on a statewide basis in the US and has served as a model trauma system for the country and the world.
- MIEMSS designates Maryland's trauma centers based on trauma center verification standards set forth in *COMAR 30.08.05, et seq.* Verification standards are developed in conjunction with Maryland trauma centers and are based on national trauma standards set by the American College of Surgeons. In order to be designated, trauma centers must meet COMAR requirements for personnel, equipment, quality management, research and other components. In addition to trauma centers located within Maryland, trauma centers located in neighboring jurisdictions, e.g., Washington, DC, also participate in the Maryland trauma system.
- The Maryland Trauma Physicians Fund, which is administered by the Maryland Health Care Commission, supports the Maryland trauma system. The Trauma Fund covers the costs of medical care provided by trauma physicians at Maryland's designated trauma centers for uncompensated care, Medicaid-enrolled patients, trauma related on-call and standby expenses and trauma equipment grant. Established in 2003, the Fund is financed through a \$5 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations and renewals.
- Maintaining Maryland's statewide trauma system is essential. The Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding will convene all stakeholders involved in the trauma system to identify and recommend any changes needed in trauma center funding that help ensure the continuation of the Maryland trauma system.

MIEMSS Supports HB 675 and Asks for a Favorable Report