

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 6, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1302 – *Cosmetologists – Esthetic Services – Definition*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** House Bill 1302.

House Bill 1302 seeks to broaden the scope of practice for estheticians by redefining what it means to provide esthetic services. The bill permits the use of “electrical, mechanical or any other means” for hair removal, and allows ablation to be performed on the epidermis. Ablation means the removal of tissue and allowing it from the epidermis as the bill provides, means the removal of living skin.

The Maryland Dermatological Society has provided amendments to the Committee to address concerns related to performing ablation of the epidermis, and MedChi joins in offering those amendments. Current Board of Cosmetology regulations prohibit the use of lasers to remove one or more layers of skin unless the person possesses a valid and appropriate health occupations license (see COMAR 09.22.02.03(J)). We believe that policy remains the correct one and should not be disturbed.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed amendments.