



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2024 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 1327 - Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics
Advisory Committee
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Information

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is respectfully submitting this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1327 - Maryland Department of Health - Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee. HB 1327 establishes the Body Altering Aesthetics Advisory Committee (the Committee) and requires the Chair of the Board of Physicians (or their designee) and a physician with experience in cosmetic and reconstructive procedures to be members. In addition, the Committee will complete a study and submit any findings and recommendations regarding the adequate regulation of the body altering aesthetics industry to the Governor and legislature for regulatory or legislative change.

HB 1327 defines “body altering aesthetics industry” to mean “the subset of the health care industry that combines that practice of various health occupations, including massage therapy, nursing, and medicine, with the aesthetic aspirations of the patients and uses a variety of medical techniques, including biomechanics, bioengineering, and biohacking”. The Board regulates cosmetic medical procedures in COMAR 10.32.09. These regulations were updated in 2018 with stakeholder input. COMAR 10.32.09 defines a cosmetic medical procedure as “any treatment using a cosmetic medical device for the purpose of improving an individual’s appearance.” Based on these two definitions, there is overlap in procedures that fall into the definition of “body altering aesthetics industry” and “cosmetic medical procedures.”

Due to the overlap described above and the involvement and membership of physicians required in the Committee, the Board is requesting clarification on the Board’s role, if any, with the Committee and guidance on working with the Committee on regulations and/or legislation regarding the body altering aesthetics industry that will impact cosmetic medical procedures and the Board’s current regulatory authority.

In addition, the Board has concerns that the advisory committee, as currently proposed, weighs heavily towards one for-profit organization.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Matthew Dudzic, Manager of Policy and Legislation, 410-764-5042 or Madeline DelGreco, Health Policy Analyst, 443-591-9082.

Sincerely,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.