



# Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113  
Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)  
[www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org)

## House Bill 1143

### In Support Of

**Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction  
Commission and Standardized Protocols - Establishment  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Hearing: February 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Honorable Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair, and distinguished Health and Government Operations Committee members,

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) strongly supports House Bill 1143  
Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction  
Commission and Standardized Protocols - Establishment**

We strongly support this legislation as we believe it will benefit all seeking care in our state's emergency rooms as well as the personnel working in emergency rooms and hospitals. With the average wait time in Maryland emergency rooms reaching almost four hours, something must be done. Setting up a Commission that includes many of the stakeholders, specifically medical staff in an emergency room, patient advocacy organizations and a member of the Maryland Hospital Association, in addition to the Secretary of Health, is the first step to reducing wait times in emergency rooms. As has been publicized in the press, wait time in Maryland emergency rooms is untenable. Swift action is needed. We had hoped that HB 274 in 2023 would accomplish this but the bill was co-opted and produced a very different work group that has not accomplished the goal we had wanted to achieve.

Very recently one of our members had to deal with the ED in Annapolis. His son and 11-year-old grandson were in an auto accident. They spent 12 hours in the ED. As you would expect, they were both exhausted, sore, and very upset by the time they were seen. This is inexcusable. Patients who come to the ED are often in desperate need of immediate help, sometimes with life threatening conditions. We need to reduce the risk to vulnerable patients of all ages and help the overburdened ED staff. Understanding the underlying causes of the long wait times and seeking best practices from other states will be crucial to finding solutions.

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we strongly urge a favorable report on HB 1143.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls  
President

Virginia G. Crespo  
Legislative Aide