



March 6, 2024

The Honorable Josaline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1149- Hospitals and Related Institutions - Outpatient Facility Fees – Letter of Support with Amendment

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) respectfully submits this Letter of Support with Amendments on House Bill 1149, "Hospitals and Related Institutions - Outpatient Facility Fees."

HSCRC is willing to conduct the study required by HB 1149. The requirements of this study are complicated and will require substantial analytical and research skills and resources. HSCRC requests flexibility in procurement laws to be able to quickly acquire resources to support HSCRC staff in this work. An accelerated procurement process will allow for a more thorough study. The recommendations resulting from this study will inform effective policy making that benefits consumers in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment. If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-991-7422 or deborah.rivkin@maryland.gov, or Jon Kromm, Executive Director, at jon.kromm@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah R. Rivkin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Deborah Rivkin
Director, Government Affairs

Attachment: Amendment

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD

Ricardo R. Johnson

Maulik Joshi, DrPH

Adam Kane, Esq

Nicki McCann, JD

Jonathan Kromm, PhD *****
Executive Director

William Henderson
Director
Medical Economics & Data Analytics

Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity

Amendment 1:

Page 1, after line 14, insert the following:

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 11–203(a)(1)(xviii) and (xix)
Annotated Code of Maryland (2023 Replacement Volume)

Page 6, after line 28, insert the following:

Article –State Finance and Procurement

11-203

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Division II does not apply to:

(1) procurement by:

(xviii) the Department of Natural Resources, for negotiating or entering into grants, agreements, or partnerships with nonprofit entities related to conservation service opportunities;
and

(xix) the State Archives for preservation, conservation, proper care, restoration, and transportation of fine art or decorative art that is:

1. in the custody of the Commission on Artistic Property; and
2. owned by or loaned to the State; **AND**

(xx) THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT SECTION 3 OF SENATE BILL 1103 (2024).

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT:

Page 8, line 16, strike “ insert “SECTION 3.” and insert “SECTION 4.”

Page 8, line 17, insert after the period the following: **“SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF THIS ACT, AT THE END OF JUNE 30, 2026, WITH NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SHALL BE ABROGATED AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE AND EFFECT.”**

