

Senate Bill 987 - Artificial Intelligence - Health Software and Health Insurance Decision Making

Position: Letter of Information February 27, 2025 Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to submit a letter of information on Senate Bill 987. SB 987 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to maintain a registry of AI health software used in the state. Additionally, it prohibits the distribution or operation of such software unless registered with the Commission.

While oversight is important, we are concerned that SB 987 may slow innovation, discouraging AI developers from introducing new technologies in Maryland. Delays in approval could reduce hospital competitiveness and limit patient access to life-saving tools. Additionally, registration costs will likely be passed on to health care providers, increasing financial strain and potentially raising patient care costs.

We recommend clarifying key terms such as "health care software" to ensure a clear understanding of what technologies fall under this mandate. A lack of precise definitions could create confusion and unintended regulatory burdens on providers using standard digital tools in clinical settings.

MHA urges careful consideration of these impacts. We remain committed to working with the legislature to balance patient safety with innovation and efficiency. Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue.

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