



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill (HB) 1301 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Health Insurance – Transfers to Special Pediatric Hospitals – Prior Authorizations - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1301 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Health Insurance – Transfers to Special Pediatric Hospitals – Prior Authorizations. HB 1301 prohibits Maryland Medicaid and its managed care organizations (MCOs) from prior authorizations of transfers to special pediatric hospitals.

As of January 2025, at least six of Maryland's nine Medicaid MCOs have already stopped requiring prior authorizations for transfers to Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital, the predominant specialty pediatric hospital impacted by this legislation.

The Department would also like to note that, as drafted, this bill could have an indeterminate fiscal impact, due to potentially increased number of transfers to and, thereby, hospital stays in specialty pediatric hospitals. The Department assumes utilization management would not be impacted by the bill and, through current and retrospective review, would mitigate but not eliminate potential fiscal impact. Additionally, this legislation could increase the number of transfers to out-of-state specialty pediatric hospitals, which would increase the fiscal impact substantially.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Moran, Dr.P.H., MHSA  
Acting Secretary