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House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 13, 2025
House Bill 1510 – *Medical Records – Notice of Destruction – Method*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 1510.

House Bill 1510 remedies an issue with legislation passed in the 2024 Session addressing the destruction of medical records. Under the current law, if medical records are going to be destroyed, notice must be sent to patients by BOTH first-class mail and by email to the last known address of the patient. Email was added to the law in 2024 in place of running an ad in a local newspaper, which was a much-needed update to the statute. Providers were also required by the 2024 legislation to keep records for 7 years instead of 5 years.

However, requiring notice by both first-class mail and email is unnecessarily expensive when hundreds or thousands of notices are being sent, and unnecessarily onerous when a patient has a known and valid email address. House Bill 1510 allows notice to be sent by either method.

Furthermore, following the adoption of the 2024 legislation, several mental health providers raised concerns about the current requirement that notice be sent by first-class mail. Many patients seek mental health counseling without informing other members of their household. But by requiring mailed notice from the mental health provider to the patient, other members of the household may become aware of the patient's relationship with the provider. Email better protects the patient's privacy.

For these reasons, MedChi requests that House Bill 1510 be adopted.

For more information call:

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