



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 756 - Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person -
Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings**

Position: *Support*
February 12, 2025
House Judiciary Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 756.

MHA fully supports all efforts to improve the Maryland health care system and hospital experience for patients. HB 756 would further assist patient care and hospital throughput by restricting civil actions taken against the assets of disabled patients who have filed for a guardian.

Often patients are admitted to hospitals without family or representatives to speak on their behalf. In some instances, these disabled patients are incapacitated and unable to account for their finances. HB 756 places a stay on civil actions once a disabled person files for a petition for guardianship of the property. This legislation protects patients from incurring additional financial hardship while unable to contest.

In many instances, patients are unable to be transported to post-acute settings due to financial impediments. Issues, such as lacking access to bank accounts and asset acquisition, stand in between a patient receiving the next step in care. HB 756 would delay any actions against a patient's personal property until a guardian is appointed, thereby giving patients a greater opportunity to retain assets while the guardianship petition works its way through the judicial system—a process that often can take months.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 756.

For more information, please contact:
Natasha Mehu, Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
Nmehu@mhaonline.org