



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 1563
Title:	Emergency Room Services and Post-Acute Care - Coverage and Facility Studies
Hearing Date:	March 23, 2026
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports House Bill 1563 - Emergency Room Services and Post-Acute Care - Coverage and Facility Studies. The bill strengthens protections for patients by requiring health insurers to cover emergency room services regardless of whether the hospital or provider is in-network. It prohibits insurers from denying emergency care based solely on diagnosis codes and prevents stricter rules for non-contracted providers. The bill also increases transparency by requiring insurers to submit quarterly reports on emergency care claims, grievances, and adverse decisions.

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) support the bill because it helps ensure patients receive uninterrupted care after emergency treatment, which is critical for recovery and rehabilitation. By protecting coverage for emergency services and examining post-acute care capacity, the bill supports smoother transitions to rehab, skilled nursing, or home health settings where OTPs often provide services. Increased insurance reporting and oversight may also reduce inappropriate denials that delay therapy. Overall, the bill aligns with occupational therapy's focus on timely intervention, functional recovery, and safe discharge planning.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.