



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

ADVANCING LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Senate Finance Committee

March 3, 2026

Senate Bill 778 – *Clinical Research Pharmacies and Clinical Trials – Permits, Ownership, and Definition of Practice of Medicine*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 778.

Senate Bill 778 authorizes the Maryland Board of Pharmacy to issue a "clinical research pharmacy" permit when a pharmacy exclusively dispenses or distributes drugs as part of a scientific research clinical trial. The MTC supports this bill because it has the potential to further enhance Maryland's already-strong life sciences and research and development industries.

Clinical research facilities are key components of the life sciences ecosystem. Member companies in the life sciences sector are already conducting ground-breaking research and studies on new drugs and treatments. This bill establishes a streamlined pathway for additional clinical research conducted by the private sector, which we believe will increase the volume of industry-led clinical trials. Supporting this industry has the potential to generate an enormous economic impact in Maryland. Additionally, clinical research pharmacies support additional high-level job opportunities. Conducting clinical research trials requires licensed pharmacists, research coordinators, technicians, and regulatory compliance personnel. These are high-skill, high-wage jobs that benefit Maryland's workforce and support the state's growth in life sciences employment.

Consistent with our mission statement, MTC's vision is to be the country's top innovation economy for life science and tech. Easier establishment, and operation of research pharmacies and trials make Maryland a more attractive place for companies to conduct research. As clinical trials are a key step in developing new therapies, success can lead to follow-on investment, new start-ups, spinouts, and licensing deals. Each of these outcomes strengthens our life sciences industry and the state's long-term economic growth. The MTC also consistently urges policymakers to support policies to make Maryland more competitive in our region and across the Country. We are aware of several other states that do not bar clinical research pharmacies of the type contemplated by the bill, putting Maryland at a competitive disadvantage. Rather than ceding clinical research activity to our competitors, we must level the playing field and pave the way to ensure that this important research and its related economic impact occur in Maryland.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 778.

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