

SB 260- MHCC Membership- Support.pdf

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Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 260- Maryland Health Care Commission- Membership

Position: *Support*
February 3, 2026
Senate Finance 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 Senate Bill 260, which adds a hospital representative to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC).

MHCC has key oversight functions within Maryland's health care system. It is charged with critical regulatory responsibilities that seek to address cost, quality, and access in health care, including assessing health system needs, analyzing health care utilization and cost trends, improving transparency and accountability within the health care system, and administering regulatory programs that shape how health services are developed and delivered across the state.

Notably, the Commission administers the Certificate of Need program, which reviews and authorizes new hospital bed capacity and significant expansions or modifications to health services. As the agency tasked with regulating the statewide health information exchange (CRISP), it also plays a pivotal role in developing policies and standards that govern how health care information is stored, shared, and protected.

Despite the Commission's significant influence on hospital operations, infrastructure planning, and data reporting, hospitals remain absent from its governance structure. The absence of hospital representation means that a critical perspective within the health care system is missing from the regulatory design process, which risks the development and adoption of policies that are disconnected from real-world challenges and realities. SB 260 would ensure more balanced stakeholder input on the Commission by adding representation from a hospital administrator, who can speak to these financial and operational considerations, as well as the practical feasibility of proposed policies and initiatives.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 260.

For more information, please contact:
Jake Whitaker, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
Jwhitaker@mhaonline.org

Testimony in support of SB0260 - Maryland Health C

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0260_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/03/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0260- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Maryland Health Care Commission - Membership

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0260, **Maryland Health Care Commission – Membership**

This bill makes two important changes to the membership of the Maryland Health Care Commission. First, it will include one member employed by a hospital to provide that perspective to the Commission in their deliberations. Second, it will remove any discrimination against the inclusion of members from our more rural and less populated counties in the Commission so they can offer perspectives that are likely to differ from those of larger counties. This bill should make the Maryland Health Care Commission more representative of the stakeholders affected by their deliberations and decisions.

Altering the membership of the Maryland Health Care Commission by reducing from nine to eight the number of members who are individuals who do not have any connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor and including a representative of a hospital; and altering from five to four the number of Commission members who must be residents of different counties with a population of 300,000 or more.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0260.

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Uploaded by: Senator Carl Jackson

Position: FWA



SB0260/803428/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

28 JAN 26
08:40:43

BY: Senator Jackson

(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 260

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, strike “a representative” and substitute “an administrator”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 10, strike “A REPRESENTATIVE” and substitute “AN ADMINISTRATOR”.

FinalReprint.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Carl Jackson

Position: FWA

SENATE BILL 260

J3

6lr2215
CF HB 322

By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the Maryland Health Care Commission by
4 reducing the number of members who are individuals who do not have any
5 connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor and
6 including ~~a representative~~ an administrator of a hospital; altering the number of
Commission
7 members who must be residents of different counties with a certain minimum
8 population; and generally relating to the membership of the Maryland Health Care
9 Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 19–101
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 19–104
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 19–101.

24 In this subtitle, “Commission” means the Maryland Health Care Commission.

2 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 260 as amended by SB0260/803428/1 01/28/26 at 8:40 AM

1 19-104.

2 (a) (1) The Commission shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor
3 with the advice and consent of the Senate.

4 (2) Of the 15 members:

5 (i) ~~[Nine]~~ **EIGHT** shall be individuals who do not have any
6 connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor; and

7 (ii) Of the remaining ~~[six]~~ **SEVEN** members:

8 1. Two shall be physicians;

9 2. Two shall be payors, as defined in § 19-132 of this subtitle;

10 3. ~~ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE~~ AN ADMINISTRATOR OF A HOSPITAL,
11 AS DEFINED IN § 19-301 OF THIS TITLE;

12 4. One shall be a nursing home administrator in the State;
13 and

14 ~~[4.]~~ **5.** One shall be a nonphysician health care practitioner.

15 (b) (1) The term of a member is 4 years.

16 (2) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms provided
17 for members of the Commission on October 1, 1999.

18 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
19 appointed and qualifies.

20 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
21 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

22 (5) The Governor may remove a member for neglect of duty, incompetence,
23 or misconduct.

24 (6) A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

25 (c) When appointing members to the Commission, the Governor shall:

26 (1) Assure that:

27 (i) At least ~~[five]~~ **FOUR** members are residents of different counties
28 with a population of 300,000 or more; and

3 **REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 260 as amended by SB0260/803428/1 01/28/26 at 8:40 AM**

1 (ii) At least three members are residents of different counties with a
2 population of less than 300,000, of which at least:

3 1. One shall be a resident of the Eastern Shore;

4 2. One shall be a resident of Allegany County, Garrett
5 County, Washington County, Carroll County, or Frederick County; and

6 3. One shall be a resident of Southern Maryland; and

7 (2) To the extent practicable, assure geographic balance and promote
8 racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the Commission's membership.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2026.