

# **2026 Testimony in Senate - Favorable - House Bill**

Uploaded by: Daniel Shattuck

Position: FAV



**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair

**Bill:** House Bill 1263 – Public Health – Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care

**Position:** FAVORABLE

House Bill 1263 “establishes the Workgroup on Post-Operative Cosmetic Care to study the regulation of post-operative cosmetic and body-altering services provided by nonphysician practitioners with focus on patient safety, consumer protection, and continuity of care.”

**Background:**

The Maryland Dermatologic Society and its members are acutely aware of the dangers and complications patients experience when receiving cosmetic medical procedures provided by non-physician practitioners in often unregulated office settings.

In fact, “research shows that adverse events following procedures done by non-physicians are likely to be greater in severity than complications following procedures done by physicians. A survey of members of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery found that 61% to 100% of complications seen in their practices were from procedures performed in medical spas, with laser hair removal and intense pulsed light treatments two of the top three most common procedures with complications.”<sup>1</sup>

**What House Bill 1263 does:**

This bill will bring together a broad range of critical stakeholders to examine current regulations, identify gaps in access to qualified providers, evaluate risks from unregulated practitioners, and assess training requirements.

It will review best practices from other states and consider options for certification or recognition of providers, prioritizing consumer protection and patient safety. An interim report is due by December 1, 2026, with a final report by December 1, 2027.

The Workgroup aims to focus on patient safety, consumer protection, and continuity of care in postoperative cosmetic services.

**For these reasons we ask for a Favorable report on House Bill 1263.**

Contact [Brocato Shattuck@bmbassoc.com](mailto:Brocato_Shattuck@bmbassoc.com) for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> American Society of Dermatologic Surgery Association’s Medical Spa Safety Resources.

# **HB1263\_MDWomensCaucus**

Uploaded by: Maryland Women's Caucus

Position: FAV

DEL. DANA JONES, DISTRICT 30A  
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*At Large*

DEL. KYM TAYLOR, DISTRICT 23  
*At Large*

**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Monday, March 23, 2025

To Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair  
Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly expresses its support for **HB 1263 – Public Health – Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care.**

HB 1263 takes an important and proactive step toward addressing the growing need for oversight in post-operative cosmetic and body-altering care. As these procedures become increasingly common, particularly those performed or followed by nonphysician practitioners, it is essential that patient safety, consumer protection, and continuity of care remain at the forefront of Maryland's healthcare framework.

This legislation establishes a dedicated Workgroup to study the regulation of post-operative cosmetic services and evaluate existing gaps in oversight. By bringing together stakeholders and experts, the Workgroup will be well-positioned to assess risks, identify best practices, and recommend standards that protect patients while ensuring access to safe and effective care.

The bill recognizes that inadequate post-operative care can lead to serious medical complications, disproportionately impacting women, who make up the majority of individuals seeking cosmetic procedures. A comprehensive review of current practices is necessary to ensure that patients receive appropriate follow-up care from qualified providers and that clear guidelines are in place to prevent harm.

By requiring the Workgroup to submit findings and recommendations by December 1, 2027, HB 1263 ensures accountability and a clear path forward for informed policy decisions. This thoughtful approach allows Maryland to respond to an evolving area of healthcare with data-driven solutions that prioritize patient well-being.

HB 1263 aligns directly with the Maryland Women's Caucus' commitment to advancing policies that protect women's health, safety, and informed decision-making.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1263.

# **HB1263 - Senate\_FAV\_MedChi\_PH - WG Postoperative C**

Uploaded by: Steve Wise

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Senate Finance Committee

March 24, 2026

House Bill 1263 – *Public Health – Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1263.

This legislation establishes a workgroup on cosmetic care to study the regulation of postoperative cosmetic and body-altering services in the State. MedChi believes that an evaluation of this industry is very much warranted, as a lot has changed in the years since the State first moved to regulate cosmetic surgical facilities, following a tragic patient outcome in the State years ago. More entities have moved into this space since that time, and there are increasing questions about adequate oversight and whether the employees involved in administering care within them are adequately trained. A comprehensive review of the industry is squarely in order, and this Workgroup will provide just that.

For these reasons, MedChi requests a favorable report on this legislation.

**For more information call:**

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# About HB 1263.pdf

Uploaded by: Tai Brown

Position: FAV

# HB 1263 – Postoperative Cosmetic Care Workgroup

## **Purpose of the Bill**

HB 1263 establishes a temporary workgroup to study postoperative cosmetic care and develop recommendations for the Maryland General Assembly. The bill does not create licensing requirements or regulatory mandates. Its purpose is to have relevant stakeholders (massage board, esthetics board, nursing board, physical therapy board, acupuncture board, etc) gather data, examine current practices + consumer needs, and provide the legislature with informed recommendations.

## **A few MD facts**

- for every 100,000 google searches, 299 are about postOp bodywork and recovery for the state of MD
- It is currently out of scope of practice for every single currently regulated profession to perform
- The State Attorney General's office is willing to contribute to the project but will only do so with legislation
- Currently there is no legal pathway for the treatments constituents are receiving
- Clients have no way of obtaining accurate information of their ongoing postsurgical healthcare
- Without these treatments, clients are also experiencing high infection rates, hospitalizations, blood clots, permanent vascular damage, missed time from work, high insurance bills, state lawsuits, additional emergency surgeries, and even death.

## **Why the Bill Is Needed**

Postoperative cosmetic care has grown rapidly alongside the increase in elective cosmetic procedures performed in the United States. Patients frequently seek postoperative bodywork services following procedures such as liposuction, abdominoplasty, and other cosmetic surgeries. At present, Maryland has no structured mechanism to examine the safety considerations, workforce practices, training pathways, and consumer protections related to this emerging field.

Without a formal legislative workgroup, there is no structured process to convene relevant stakeholders or to deliver coordinated findings to the legislature. Informal discussions among agencies and industry participants do not create a reporting mandate or timeline.

# **Bill Testimony 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tai Brown

Position: FAV

Chair and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Tai Brown, and I am here in support of this work study examining the Body Altering Aesthetics industry.

Each year, Maryland residents undergo elective surgical procedures and are discharged within hours. Recovery includes trauma remodeling from large-volume surgical procedures that separated tissue planes and disrupted so much of the body's fluid-regulating networks. Patients leave surgery with altered microvascular dynamics, and a high inflammatory load. When that widespread level of physiological disruption occurs, patients seek and find benefit in what has emerged over the last 20yrs as a synergy of postsurgical bodywork treatments and services.

These services are frequently categorized as 'massage,' yet the techniques being delivered often extend beyond what traditional massage therapy statutes were designed to address. They also do not align cleanly within existing nursing, esthetics, cosmetology, or physical therapy frameworks. This creates a definitional and regulatory gap, and public confusion. Consumers believe they are receiving one category of care, while providers operate within language that does not clearly define what is permissible— and indirectly introduce negligence into client care.

Regardless of opinions of the work, Maryland residents are actively seeking these services; In the state of Maryland alone, for every 100,000 google searches, 299 of them are about surgery recovery and post surgical bodywork. When demand exists without clear definitions, oversight, or education standards, confusion increases for everyone involved.

That confusion carries consequences. Preventable complications escalate. Inconsistent training leads to variable practice standards. Scope boundaries blur. Licensed providers are placing their licenses on the line to help desperate clients. Patients absorb financial and medical burdens. Families face avoidable distress. Boards are taxed with the gray areas of their licensed providers who lack clear pathways for this work & are forced to interpret statutes that were never designed for this category of care.

This work study gives Maryland the opportunity to examine scope gaps, liability exposure, educational standards, and consumer protections before further harm occurs. It gathers data and stakeholder input so future policy decisions are grounded in evidence and public safety.

Maryland can address this proactively and thoughtfully.

Thank you.

# **HB1263 Appendix.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tai Brown

Position: FAV

# Appendix

## Statutory Scope Comparison – Post-Surgical Trauma Remodeling Services

### Maryland Health Occupations & Business Occupations Review

This appendix provides a focused comparison of current Maryland statutory frameworks as they relate to structured post-surgical trauma remodeling bodywork delivered during cosmetic surgical recovery. It is submitted to assist the Committee in evaluating whether existing statutes clearly contemplate this emerging category of service.

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## 1. Massage Therapy

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 6

Title 6 governs licensed massage therapists and registered massage practitioners. The statute defines massage therapy as the use of manual techniques on soft tissues for therapeutic purposes.

Massage statutes were drafted to regulate soft tissue manipulation performed for therapeutic or wellness purposes. Post-surgical trauma remodeling services differ in material respects:

- They are delivered to tissue that has recently undergone surgical incision, undermining, liposuction, or structural alteration.
- They occur during active inflammatory and remodeling phases of recovery.
- They frequently incorporate techniques and mechanical devices that extend beyond traditional massage or manual lymphatic drainage modalities as commonly defined in training programs.

Title 6 does not expressly address structured manual intervention on recently surgically altered tissue during early recovery. As a result, post-surgical services are often categorized as massage, even though the statutory framework does not clearly contemplate this specialized recovery context.

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## 2. Nursing

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 8

Title 8 governs registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. Nursing practice includes clinical assessment, care planning, and provision of delegated medical services under physician oversight.

Massage therapy remains a separately regulated profession in Maryland. The practice of nursing does not independently authorize the performance of massage therapy when such services fall within Title 6 regulation.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling bodywork services are often delivered outside formal physician delegation models and outside structured nursing care plans. Independent elective bodywork services provided without medical delegation do not align squarely with statutory nursing authority as defined under Title 8.

The statute does not provide explicit language addressing independent post-surgical manual recovery services performed outside clinical supervision.

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## 3. Physical Therapy

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 13

Title 13 governs the practice of physical therapy. Physical therapy is defined as evaluation and treatment of movement dysfunction, injury, or impairment with the goal of restoring functional mobility and physical performance.

Surgical procedures may create temporary impairment; however, physical therapy statutes center on rehabilitation of movement, strength, neuromuscular function, and mobility deficits.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling services in the cosmetic population are typically directed toward:

- Edema modulation
- Fibrotic tissue management
- Aesthetic contour stabilization

- Management of post-liposuction and post-undermining tissue response

These goals differ from traditional rehabilitative endpoints focused on restoring functional mobility.

In addition, structured education pathways within accredited physical therapy programs are not specifically designed around cosmetic post-surgical edema management and trauma remodeling in elective aesthetic populations.

Most providers currently delivering post-surgical bodywork services do not hold physical therapy licensure and are not operating under Title 13 authority. As a result, this service category exists outside standard physical therapy educational and licensure frameworks.

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## **4. Cosmetology / Esthetics**

Maryland Business Occupations and Professions Article, Title 5

Title 5 governs cosmetologists and estheticians, whose scope centers on beautification and skin care services.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling services frequently involve manual techniques directed at deeper soft tissue layers during active recovery from surgical alteration. These services extend beyond surface-level skin treatments contemplated within cosmetology and esthetics statutes.

# **HB1263 Cosmetic Post-op Care - Sponsor Senate Test**

Uploaded by: Terri Hill

Position: FAV

**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**

*Legislative District 12A  
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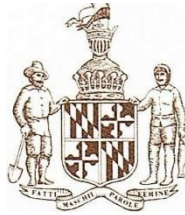
Health and Government Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Health and Minority Health Disparities, Chair

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## **THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **HB1263 – Public Health – Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care**

March 24, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

**HB1263** establishes the Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care, convening structured medical and health experts and stakeholders to study the unregulated postoperative body and recovery services provided by unlicensed practitioners, focusing specifically on patient safety, consumer protection, and the continuity of care for Maryland residents.

The landscape of cosmetic and body-altering procedures, including with the use of energy-based devices and technology, has grown rapidly, outpacing the regulatory frameworks intended to oversee medical and surgical recovery and aftercare. Following surgical procedures, many patients seek postoperative services such as lymphatic drainage or specialized wound care, that is delivered by practitioners whose training and oversight may not be clearly defined under existing law. Additionally, licensed and unlicensed practitioners are increasingly promoting modalities of unproven efficacy and/or that carry significant risks.

The workgroup established through **HB1263**, with broad representation from the range of professions with direct and related experience or expertise in care management and delivery, would be charged with identifying regulatory gaps and making recommendations on how they might best be addressed. They would also offer advice on how the State can better keep abreast as body altering technology continues to evolve and on which entity or entities should be given oversight authority. The Departments of Health and of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Boards of Nursing, Massage Therapy, Acupuncture, and Physical Therapy, licensed physicians, and patient advocates.

This bill's scope includes a review of the services being provided and by whom, provider qualifications, patient access, scope-of-practice conflicts, training standards, and risks from unregulated practitioners. It also reviews best practices from other states and explores certification or recognition options, prioritizing patient safety and consumer protection, while avoiding unnecessary new licensure programs and favoring low-cost solutions.

I urge a favorable report.

*Terri L. Hill, M.D.*