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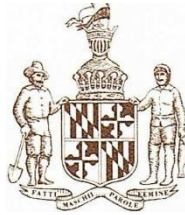
Health and Government Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Public Health and Minority Health Disparities, Chair

Elder and Long-Term Care

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health



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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1263 – Public Health – Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

HB1263, by establishing the Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care, convenes structured body of experts and stakeholders to study the regulation of postoperative services provided by nonphysician 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. Currently, many patients seek postoperative services - such as lymphatic drainage or specialized wound care- from practitioners whose training and oversight may not be clearly defined under existing law. Additionally, licensed and unlicensed practitioners promote modalities of unproven efficacy and/or that carry significant risks. The workgroup established through **HB1263** has broad representation from the range of professions with direct and related experience or expertise in these areas of care management and delivery to identify regulatory gaps and advise how they might best be addressed, how the State can better keep abreast as body altering technology evolves, and which entity or entities should be given oversight authority. Representatives are from the Departments of Health and Labor, the Boards of Nursing, Massage Therapy, and Physical Therapy, licensed physicians, and patient advocates. An amendment to include the Acupuncture Board is being offered.

This bill 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.