



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 1143 - Public Health - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner -
Perinatal Autopsies (Lung Float Test Ban)
COMMITTEE: Health
POSITION: Letter of Information

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is respectfully submitting this Letter of Information for House Bill (HB) 1143 Public Health - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - Perinatal Autopsies (Lung Float Test Ban). The bill prohibits the Chief Medical Examiner, deputy chief medical examiners, assistant medical examiners, and pathologists authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner from using a hydrostatic lung test, also known as a lung float test, when performing certain perinatal autopsies.

The bill also adds a new disciplinary ground for physicians under § 14-404(a)(48) for violations of this section. The Board requests that this ground not be added. It is already within the Board's authority to investigate and issue disciplinary charges for a violation of any state or federal law related to the practice of medicine under § 14-404(a)(43), which would encompass the prohibitions established by this Act.

The Board requests that the new disciplinary ground (48) be removed from page 5, line 28:

~~[(48) VIOLATES § 5-309(C) OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.]~~

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Oriell Harris, Health Policy Analyst, at OriellT.Harris@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.