



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the House Health Committee
Chair: Delegate Heather Bagnall
March 2, 2026

House Bill 1367: Commission on Re-Imagining Health Care in Maryland

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) offers a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT testimony in support of House Bill 1367: Commission on Re-Imagining Health Care in Maryland.

MRHA supports HB 1367, which establishes a commission of diverse representatives to study the potential for a comprehensive health care system in Maryland. The goals of the commission are in alignment with MRHA's legislative priorities, which include improving health care for the aging population, improving health care access, and supporting the health care workforce.

Amendment recommendation: MRHA would like to suggest that a representative of the Maryland Rural Health Association be included in the Commission. Although the proposed members include representatives of rural communities from the Maryland Association of Counties and from a local health department, MRHA represents a broad range of organizations operating throughout rural Maryland regions and believes that our association would contribute meaningfully to the Commission. The bill states that "the membership of the Commission shall reflect the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State," which should include meaningful representation from rural Maryland. As 18 of Maryland's 24 counties are designated as rural, MRHA's contributions to the Commission would ensure that recommendations are made with these rural counties in mind.¹

MRHA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we urge you to provide a favorable report with amendment on HB 1367.

With appreciation,
The Maryland Rural Health Association

1. Maryland Department of Health. Rural Health. Maryland Department of Health website. Accessed March 3, 2026. <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/pages/rural-health.aspx>