MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

Senate Bill 778

Position: Favorable
Committee: Health
Date: April 2, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 778 (SB 778) clarifies the legal and regulatory framework governing clinical research pharmacies in Maryland by establishing a specific permit category for these entities and aligning statutory language with the operational realities of modern clinical trials. The bill recognizes the unique structure and purpose of clinical research pharmacies while preserving appropriate oversight and compliance standards.

Maryland is home to a nationally recognized life sciences ecosystem, including leading academic medical centers, biotechnology companies, and research institutions. As clinical trials become increasingly complex and specialized, the infrastructure that supports them, including the safe handling, preparation, and dispensing of investigational products, must be clearly defined in statute. SB 778 provides that clarity.

By authorizing the Maryland Board of Pharmacy to issue permits tailored to clinical research pharmacies, the bill ensures that these entities operate under appropriate regulatory supervision while acknowledging that their functions differ from traditional retail or hospital pharmacies. Clinical research pharmacies are designed to support investigational studies conducted in accordance with federal law, Institutional Review Board approval, and Good Clinical Practice standards. Clarifying their role in Maryland law removes ambiguity without diminishing professional accountability or patient protections.

Importantly, SB 778 does not weaken medical oversight or alter the standards governing the practice of medicine. Rather, it recognizes that clinical research activities, when conducted pursuant to approved protocols, require a regulatory structure that reflects their distinct purpose. Providing this clarity will reduce unnecessary administrative barriers, encourage investment in Maryland-based trials, and make it easier for sponsors and research institutions to conduct studies in the State.

Strengthening Maryland's clinical trial infrastructure has meaningful economic and public health benefits. Clinical research supports high-skilled jobs, attracts private investment, and gives Maryland patients earlier access to innovative therapies. In a competitive national environment for research dollars and trial placement, a clear and modern statutory framework signals that Maryland is committed to being a leader in medical innovation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report on SB 778.**