



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 322- Maryland Health Care Commission- Membership

Position: *Support*
February 11, 2026
House Health Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 322, which adds a hospital representative to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC).

MHCC has key oversight functions within Maryland's health care system. It is charged with critical regulatory responsibilities that seek to address cost, quality, and access in health care, including assessing health system needs, analyzing health care utilization and cost trends, improving transparency and accountability within the health care system, and administering regulatory programs that shape how health services are developed and delivered across the state.

Notably, the Commission administers the Certificate of Need program, which reviews and authorizes new hospital bed capacity and significant expansions or modifications to health services. As the agency tasked with regulating the statewide health information exchange (CRISP), it also plays a pivotal role in developing policies and standards that govern how health care information is stored, shared, and protected.

Despite the Commission's significant influence on hospital operations, infrastructure planning, and data reporting, hospitals remain absent from its governance structure. The absence of hospital representation means that a critical perspective within the health care system is missing from the regulatory design process, which risks the development and adoption of policies that are disconnected from real-world challenges and realities. HB 322 would ensure more balanced stakeholder input on the Commission by adding representation from a hospital administrator, who can speak to these financial and operational considerations, as well as the practical feasibility of proposed policies and initiatives.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 322.

For more information, please contact:
Jake Whitaker, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs & Policy
Jwhitaker@mhaonline.org