



Committee: House Health Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1153 -Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Claims for Reimbursement -Downcoding

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 1153 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Claims for Reimbursement – Downcoding*. The legislation establishes protocols that prevent arbitrary downcoding of evaluation and management codes in Medicaid and state-regulated plans. MASBHC supports this legislation because downcoding has a negative impact on the sustainability of primary care for children.ⁱ We are already facing a shortage of pediatric providers in nearly every Maryland community. Maryland needs to embrace a multi-faceted approach, including ensuring insurance reimbursement is sufficient to sustain primary care practices.ⁱⁱ

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/33931/Downcoding-undermines-value-of-pediatric-care-how>

ⁱⁱ https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/documents/pcw/pci_rpt.pdf