

MedChi

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TO: The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ariana Kelly

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: April 1, 2015

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 327 – *Health – Ambulatory Surgical Facility – Definition*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 Maryland physicians and their patients, support House Bill 327.

House Bill 327 alters the definition of “ambulatory surgical facility” under Maryland law, and conforms state law with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) definition under federal law. The current Maryland statute defines the term as an entity that “operates primarily for the purpose of providing surgical services to patients requiring a period of postoperative observation but not requiring overnight hospitalization.” By its terms, this definition relies upon the time of day, and does not factor in that a procedure may have taken place late in the day, requiring a person to remain in the facility “overnight” but still not longer than 24 hours.

House Bill 327 alters the definition to remove the reference to the time of day, and instead permits an ambulatory surgical facility to provide services so long as the expected duration of services at the ambulatory surgical facility would not exceed 24 hours following admission. According to the Office of Health Care Quality, 22 states currently define an ambulatory surgical center using the same federal regulatory guidelines.

For these reasons, MedChi supports House Bill 327.

For more information call:

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