

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chair  
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Chris West

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 1, 2016

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** – House Bill 724 – *Public Health – Copies of Medical Records – Fees*

---

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 7,600 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 724, with amendments.

House Bill 724 addresses the amount that a health care provider can charge a patient who obtains copies of a medical record in electronic format. Current law sets the fees for records which are provided in paper format.

MedChi supports this legislation but would ask for two amendments. The first amendment would attempt to conform House Bill 724 to federal law, which indicates that the cost for the record shall not be greater than the entity's labor costs in responding to the request for the copy. Our second amendment relates to the repeal of the Consumer Price Index reference in the current law, which allows an increase based on that index. We are not aware of any reason to repeal that increase, which merely allows the costs involved to reflect inflation.

With the following two amendments, MedChi supports this legislation:

Amendment No. 1

On Page 2, at Line 21, strike “not to exceed \$15” and substitute “FOR THE LABOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH”

Amendment No. 2

On Page 2, at Lines 27 and 29, remove the bracket; at line 31, remove both brackets.

**For more information call:**

J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000