



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

House Judiciary Committee
February 18, 2026
House Bill 526 – *Civil Actions – Settlement Agreements – Payment and Release*
POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **opposes** House Bill 526.

This legislation would establish certain timelines upon defendants when settlement agreements are reached in civil cases. These include deadlines for providing a proposed release to a plaintiff, dates for payment, and provisions related to liens held by third parties.

The deadlines and other provisions contained in House Bill 526 are overly prescriptive. Furthermore, settlement terms are reached by the parties to litigation and put in the form of an agreement, which is treated as a contract between the settling parties. The Legislature should not insert itself into what is fundamentally a contractual negotiation between the parties to the litigation.

For these reasons, MedChi urges the Committee to oppose House Bill 526.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000