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House Health Committee
March 5, 2026
House Bill 1051 – *Public Health – Patient Access to Medication*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** House Bill 1051.

House Bill 1051 takes meaningful steps to make medication more accessible to patients and improve overall patient outcomes. This bill establishes the Meds-to-Beds Program within the Maryland Department of Health to ensure that patients leaving the hospital receive their prescribed discharge medications before they go home. Often, patients are discharged with prescriptions in hand but face obstacles filling them, including transportation challenges, limited pharmacy hours, cost concerns, or confusion about their medication regimen. By involving a pharmacist in the delivery of discharge medications, the program helps reduce barriers patients often face when obtaining necessary prescriptions after hospitalization, which can lead to treatment delays, nonadherence, and potentially preventable readmissions.

House Bill 1051 also authorizes hospitals and other health care facilities to use automated and remote drug dispensing systems, which can improve efficiency and expand access to medication. These systems can be particularly valuable in areas where pharmacy access may be limited. By modernizing medication distribution and leveraging technology, the bill supports more responsive and patient-centered care while maintaining appropriate oversight and safety standards.

Ensuring that patients leave the hospital with the medications they need and a clear understanding of how to use them is an effective strategy to reduce avoidable complications and improve recovery. By removing logistical hurdles and supporting patient access to prescribed medications at the point of discharge, House Bill 1051 will help strengthen health outcomes across Maryland. For these reasons, MedChi respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1051.

For more information call:

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