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House Health Committee

March 11, 2026

House Bill 1372 – *Public Health – Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland  
Department of Health Centralization Commission*  
**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendments** House Bill 1372.

This legislation would require the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to collaborate with the Maryland Health Care Commission to develop a process for more transparency in OHCQ’s facility inspections, and it establishes a Health Centralization Commission. MedChi’s concerns relate to the second objective of centralizing licensure and other systems among health professional boards.

The Board of Physicians (Board) regulates all physicians in the State and numerous allied health professions. Despite having its reserve funds, which are comprised of licensure fees, raided on numerous occasions, including for the upcoming 2027 Fiscal Year, the Board has not had the troubles correcting audit findings or with licensure delays that some of the other professional boards have, as illustrated in an April 2025 Office of Legislative Audits report. Going back 15 or more years, there was a time when the Board had some issues with licensure and clearing disciplinary cases, but it has performed extremely well in the years since.

For this reason, MedChi is genuinely concerned about the language in the bill that seeks to establish a “single, comprehensive licensure system to be used by all health occupations boards” and to “authorize the use of health occupation board regulatory fees to support” that system. While we do not agree on all policy issues, our Board is efficient, timely and responsive. Moving our licensure system into a more wide-scale system is bound to be rife with transition issues and costs that do not seem necessary in light of our current, well-functioning system. We fear we will leave a good system without reason and find ourselves part of a worse system.

For this reason, we request that the Board of Physicians be removed from the bill. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

**For more information call:**

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