



House Health Committee
March 5, 2026

House Bill 1376 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children’s Health Program, and Health Insurance – Transfers to Special Pediatric Hospitals – Requirements*
POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1376.

House Bill 1376 strengthens access to appropriate care for children by improving the authorization and reimbursement processes associated with transfers to special pediatric hospitals. Special pediatric hospitals provide non-acute medical, rehabilitation, therapy, and palliative services to children and young adults with significant medical needs that cannot be met in general acute care settings. Ensuring that children who require these services can be transferred promptly and appropriately is essential to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

House Bill 1376 improves this process by establishing clearer and more timely prior authorization requirements for transfers to special pediatric hospitals and by allowing retrospective review of medical necessity determinations. These provisions help ensure that clinical decisions are guided by patient needs, rather than administrative delays. When children are kept in settings that do not match their level of care, it can impede recovery, limit access to specialized therapies, and increase overall health care costs.

The bill also provides for reimbursement of administrative days during the period in which authorization decisions are under review. This recognizes the operational realities faced by hospitals and referring providers when transfer approvals are delayed or disputed. Ensuring fair reimbursement supports providers' financial stability and helps maintain access to specialized pediatric services across the State.

Children with complex health care needs need a system that responds efficiently and fairly to clinical needs. By promoting timely review of transfer requests, reducing unnecessary administrative barriers, and ensuring appropriate reimbursement, House Bill 1376 will help improve continuity of care, reduce stress for families, and support better health outcomes for pediatric patients across Maryland. For these reasons, the above-named organizations respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1376.

For more information call:

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