



News: For Immediate Release  
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## **SEVERAL KEY HEALTH MEASURES TAKE EFFECT NEXT WEEK**

ANNAPOLIS – June 26, 2024 – On July 1, several key health measures will take effect. Vaping was added to the Clean Indoor Air Act and new rules around students and telehealth visits will be created. MedChi monitors all health-related legislation every year. MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, explained that “MedChi is always working to protect patients, physicians, and the public health of Maryland as policy is developed.”

House Bill 238/Senate Bill 244: Public Health – Clean Indoor Air Act – Revisions is a bill supported by MedChi. The legislation extends the ban on smoking in public indoor areas and on specified mass transit systems under the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) to include “vaping.” Signage that states “No Smoking or Vaping” must be conspicuously posted and properly maintained in each indoor area open to the public (including each public entrance to an indoor area) where smoking or vaping is prohibited under CIAA.

House Bill 522/Senate Bill 492: Public Schools – Student Telehealth Appointments – Policy and Access was heavily amended to address several issues raised by Maryland public schools. As enacted, the bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and MDH, by December 31, 2024, to develop State guidelines regarding the availability for student participation in telehealth appointments during the school day on the premises of public middle and high schools. In developing the guidelines, MSDE and MDH must consult with a broad range of stakeholders and consider operational, legal, and financial issues. The State Board of Education must adopt the State guidelines as developed by MSDE and MDH, and, before the start of the 2025-2026 school year, each local board of education must adopt and implement a policy in accordance with the State guidelines. Each local board must ensure that the local school system publishes the student telehealth policy in the student handbook and makes school personnel aware of student telehealth policy objectives and requirements.

House Bill 1337: Health Insurance – Appeals and Grievances Process – Reporting Requirements expands the required contents for the quarterly report each carrier must submit to the Insurance Commissioner regarding appeals and grievances. Each carrier must include in a quarterly report to the Commissioner (1) the number of members entitled to health care benefits under a policy, plan, or certificate issued or delivered in the State by the carrier and (2) the number of clean claims for reimbursement processed by the carrier.

House Bill 1048/Senate Bill 212: Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations is a MDH bill, which alters the membership of both the Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access and provides specific requirements for collaboration and meeting timeframes.

For a full summary of Maryland legislation passed this General Assembly, [please click here](#).

#### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).