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## **SEVERAL KEY HEALTH MEASURES TOOK EFFECT JUNE 1**

BALTIMORE – June 4, 2025 – On June 1, several key health measures took effect. MedChi monitors all health-related legislation every year. MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, states “MedChi is always working to protect patients, physicians, and the public health of Maryland as policy is developed. Maryland has stepped up in passing legislation surrounding health insurance and mental health this session.”

House Bill 11/Senate Bill 902 removes the termination date of June 30, 2025 to permanently require that mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services provided by a nonparticipating specialist or nonphysician specialist are provided at no greater cost to an individual than if the services were provided by a participating provider. In addition, if a member cannot access mental health or SUD services through the referral procedure, the carrier must assist the member in identifying and arranging coverage for mental health or SUD services with a nonparticipating specialist or nonphysician specialist.

House Bill 718 establishes the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission (which MedChi has a seat on) to monitor, assess, and make recommendations, if necessary, regarding the impact of potential and actual federal changes to Federal/State health care programs to protect the access of residents of the State to affordable health coverage.

House Bill 869/Senate Bill 372 permanently authorizes the use of audio-only telehealth services as “telehealth”. Also, all telehealth services will permanently be reimbursed on the same basis and at the same rate as if the healthcare service were delivered in person by the healthcare provider.

House Bill 962/Senate Bill 696 specifies that the inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services within the Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System are both private and State services. It will require MDH to ensure pediatric hospital overstay patients are placed in the least restrictive setting when clinically indicated and when possible and if a pediatric hospital overstay patient remains in the hospital for more than 48 hours and the Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System indicates that an appropriate inpatient bed is available, the hospital must seek the transfer to maintain the clinical stability of the patient.

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).