

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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**TO:** The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman  
Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable James Robey

**FROM:** Joseph A. Schwartz, III  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise

**DATE:** February 27, 2013

**RE:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 372 – *Health Occupation Boards – Criminal History Records Checks – General Authority*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents over 7,500 Maryland physicians and their patients, supports Senate Bill 372 with amendment.

Senate Bill 372 would enable all health occupations boards to adopt regulations allowing for a criminal history records check, both at initial licensure and upon renewal.

MedChi understands the need for regulations establishing a criminal records check procedure, but believes that a records check at license renewal every 2 years will be onerous for licensees, particularly when the courts are required to report certain convictions of physicians to the Board of Physicians. This reporting mechanism should provide the Board with information that allows it to take any necessary action following the conviction of a physician for a crime.

Currently, MedChi understands that the Board of Physicians will conduct criminal records checks on applicants as the need arises. Initial applicants must also disclose any convictions. MedChi recognizes that this information is important for patient safety. Our concern is that the legislation would allow the Board to require applicants at renewal every two years, as a matter of course, to undergo a criminal records check. To resolve this issue, MedChi will be submitting amendments to the Committee to limit the circumstances when a records check can be required at renewal.

For these reasons, MedChi supports Senate Bill 372 with amendments.

**For more information call:**

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