



Legislative Update 2024 Session

FEBRUARY 22, 2024



Quick Statistics

- ❑ February 23rd – Day 45 of the Legislative Session
- ❑ March 4th – Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules
- ❑ March 18th – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date
- ❑ 1,215 bills introduced in the Senate
- ❑ 1,647 bills introduced in the House
- ❑ Staff tracking currently \approx 215 bills

Upcoming Bill Hearings con't



Thursday February 22, 2024

HB 932 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

HB 935 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

Wednesday February 28, 2024

HB 804 - Certificate of Need - Psychiatric Health Care Facilities and Psychiatric and Mental Health Services - Exemption

HB 1439 - Public Health - Funding for Trauma Centers and Services

SB 778-Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults – Coverage

SB 595-Health Benefit Plans - Calculation of Cost Sharing Contribution - Requirements and Prohibitions

Thursday February 29, 2024

HB 879-Health Benefit Plans – Calculation of Cost Sharing Contribution – Requirements and Prohibitions



Upcoming Bill Hearings

Thursday February 29, 2024, con't

HB 1038 - Motor Vehicles - Emergency Medical Services - Registration Surcharge

SB 1092 - Vehicle Registration - Emergency Medical System Surcharge - Increase and Distribution of Funds

HB 1423-Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Step Therapy, Fail-First Protocols, and Prior Authorization - Prescription Drugs to Treat Serious Mental Illness

Friday March 1

HB 1134 - Hospitals and Related Institutions – Residential Treatment Centers – Accreditation

SB 825-Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Related Institutions and Nursing Homes

Update on Activities



Bill Hearings To Date:

HB 628 - Health Occupations - Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists - Reciprocal Licensure Requirements

HB 728 - Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

SB 204 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

SB 359 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

SB 403 - Hospitals and Related Institutions - Residential Treatment Centers - Accreditation

SB 409 - Health Occupations - Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists - Reciprocal Licensure Requirements

SB 784 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

SB 694 - Maryland Department of Health – Health Commissions and Maryland Insurance Administration – Study (2/21)

SB 705 - Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act) (2/21)

SB 791 - Health Insurance - Utilization Review – Revisions (2/21)



Update on Activities

MHCC Budget Hearings:

- ❑ House Appropriations (Health and Social Services Subcommittee – February 15th)
- ❑ Senate Budget and Tax (Health and Human Services Subcommittee – February 19th)



Update on Activities

Report and Recommendations from the Commission to Study Trauma Funding

Commission to Study Trauma Funding



Recommendation	Legislation Required	Hospital Costs	Funding Needed	Source of Revenue
A.1-2. Increase On-Call Payments	Y	N	\$7,600,000	Currently MVA Surcharges
B.1-2. Add additional flexibility For Trauma Fund Administration (MHCC and HSCRC) to modify program parameters	Y	N	No Budget Impact	No Funding Impact
C. Enable non-physician providers to receive payment from the Trauma Fund	Y	N	\$500,000	Currently MVA Surcharges
D.1 Allow all standby costs for the four primary specialties to be fully included in hospital rates	N	Y	\$11,000,000	HSCRC rate setting authority
D.2 HSCRC should audit the incremental hospital costs associated with the trauma service	N	Y	\$200,000	HSCRC Operating Budget
D.3 HSCRC should consider full accounting for incremental trauma costs as opposed to considering these costs as part of its hospital efficiency methodology.	N	Y	Increase costs to due to higher hospital costs & higher premiums or higher Medicaid costs	Hospital Rates. Community hospitals reported \$82 million and RACSTC \$269 million in trauma costs in 2022-23.

Commission to Study Trauma Funding con't



Recommendation	Legislation Required	Hospital Costs	Funding Needed	Source of Revenue
E. Conduct biennial audits to confirm that managed care organizations (MCOs) are reimbursing all trauma providers at the Medicare rate	N	N	\$250,000	Possibly funded by the Trauma Fund or by Medicaid's operating budget.
F.1 Award National Children's Hospital an increase in their NTE stipend consistent with the increase in on-call payments	Y	N	\$310,000	Currently, Children's receives a stipend of up to \$590,000 from the Trauma Fund based on documented costs.
F.2 Increase on-call payments to the Specialty Pediatric, Hand, Eye, and Burn trauma centers consistent with the increases for Level II and III trauma centers	Y	N	n/a	Cost already reflected in recommendation A.1

Commission to Study Trauma Funding con't



Recommendation	Legislation Required	Hospital Costs	Funding Needed	Source of Revenue
G.1 Align the Trauma Data Systems with MHCC and HSCRC Data Systems to enable more complete analysis of trauma care and costs	N	N	\$100,000	Annual cost, but possibly smaller once established. Possibly funded by the Trauma Fund or agencies
G.2 MHCC shall convene a workgroup to examine establishing quality measures for trauma care	N	N	\$100,000	One-time Expense. Funded from MHCC budget



Next Legislative Policy Meeting

February 29th

March 7th

March 14th

March 21st

These calls are held on an as needed basis. Agendas (or cancellations) will be posted on the website.

The End (Not Literally)

