

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

During the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session, legislators considered more than 2,664 bills and resolutions. The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) reviewed and prioritized bills weekly, focusing on legislation that affects the Board's mission, operations, or licensees. Below is a snapshot of relevant bills.

For a list of the status of all bills, visit the [Maryland General Assembly Website](#).

ENACTED BILLS

House Bill 1372 (Chapter 369) – Public Health - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Health Centralization Commission, effective upon enactment. This bill establishes a Maryland Health Centralization Commission to provide advice and recommendations relating to the relationship between the Department of Health and the health occupations boards. The bill also requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Health Care Quality, to develop a process for receiving and publishing certain inspection information on the Commission's Maryland Quality Reporting website.

Senate Bill 915 (Chapter 214) / House Bill 1047 (Chapter 213) –State Board of Physicians - Delegation of Duties - Alterations, effective October 1, 2026. This bill authorizes an individual who has completed the first year of an accredited radiological technologist educational program, is in good standing, and meets all other requirements to be registered with the State Board of Physicians to perform limited X-ray machine operations, and establishes disciplinary procedures for limited X-ray machine operators.

Senate Bill 326 (Chapter 222) / House Bill 377 (Chapter 223) – Physician Assistants and Midwives - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners (Physician Assistant Parity Act of 2026), effective October 1, 2026. This bill alters certain provisions of law to include physician assistants in the health care practitioners who may take certain actions, including those related to the guardianship of disabled persons and admissions to mental health facilities.

ENACTED BILLS Continued

House Bill 557 (Chapter 302) – Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Predetermination Review Process, effective July 1, 2026.

This bill revises the definition of "department" to exclude the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for purposes of certain provisions that prohibit a department from refusing to issue an occupational license or certificate based on a certain conviction under certain circumstances.

House Bill 771 (Chapter 205) - Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training, effective June 1, 2026. This bill requires a health occupations board to grant continuing education credits for the completion of a human trafficking awareness training identified by the Department of Health and to conduct outreach to inform licensees of available human trafficking awareness training programs.

Senate Bill 891 (Chapter 636) / House Bill 1118 (Chapter 637) – Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Behavioral Health Conditions, effective July 1, 2026. This bill requires certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for screening for perinatal behavioral health conditions at certain times. This bill also requires health occupations boards to grant at least 2 hours of continuing education credits for every 1 hour of continuing education on perinatal behavioral health conditions identified by the Department of Health for certain licensees or certificate holders.

House Bill 1365 (Chapter 606) – Health Occupations, Public Health, and Insurance - Menopause - Provider Training Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care, effective July 1, 2026. This bill requires certain insurers, nonprofit health services plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated conditions, alters the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness, and requires the Maryland Commission for Women to conduct certain evaluations. This bill also requires health occupations boards to grant at least 2 hours of continuing education credits for every 1 hour of continuing education on menopause and menopause-associated symptoms for certain licensees or certificate holders.

ENACTED BILLS Continued

Senate Bill 562 (Chapter 54) / House Bill 838 (Chapter 53) – State Board of Pharmacy - Prescriber-Pharmacist Agreements, effective July 1, 2026. This bill authorizes pharmacists, under certain circumstances, to enter into prescriber-pharmacist agreements to treat an opioid use disorder using controlled dangerous substances drug therapy.

Senate Bill 83 (Chapter 335) – Health Occupations - Grounds for Discipline - Federal and Court Actions, effective October 1, 2026. This bill alters the grounds for discipline by certain health occupations boards to include being disciplined by any branch of the uniformed services or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Senate Bill 294 (Chapter 542)/ House Bill 450 (Chapter 542) – Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking, effective October 1, 2026. This bill prohibits a court or a party in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case from disclosing or allowing inspection of a certain court filing or record.

Senate Bill 242 (Chapter 694)/ House Bill 420 (Chapter 694) – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act, effective October 1, 2026. This bill authorizes active service members and spouses, under certain circumstances, to practice in the State under an occupational or professional license.

Senate Bill 150 (Chapter 491) – Notation of Veteran Status - Public Profiles, effective October 1, 2026. This bill authorizes the Department of the Environment, the Department of General Services, and units in the Maryland Department of Labor to include a notation on public profiles of licensees, certificate holders, and security identification card holders indicating that the individual is a veteran.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

Senate Bill SB 489 – Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in Foreign Countries - Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited License. This bill would have authorized the State Board of Physicians, beginning October 1, 2028, to issue a limited license to practice medicine to a physician trained and licensed in a foreign country.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS Continued

House Bill 1143 – Public Health - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - Perinatal Autopsies (Lung Float Test Ban). This bill would have prohibited, for a certain period of time, the Chief Medical Examiner, deputy chief medical examiners, assistant medical examiners, and pathologists authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner from using a hydrostatic lung test, also known as a lung float test, if performing a certain perinatal autopsy.

House Bill 1263 – Public Health - Workgroup on Postoperative Cosmetic Care. This bill would have established a workgroup on Post-Operative Cosmetic Care to study the regulation of post-operative cosmetic and body-altering services provided by nonphysician practitioners.

Senate Bill 951/ House Bill 1558 – State Board of Physicians – Anesthesiologist Assistants – Licensing. This bill would have established a licensing and regulatory system for anesthesiologist assistants under the State Board of Physicians.

Senate Bill 470/ House Bill 520 – State Board of Physicians - Naturopathic Doctors - Scope of Practice, Renewals, and Professional Liability Insurance. This bill would have authorized naturopathic doctors licensed in the State to prescribe prescription medications, including controlled dangerous substances listed in the formulary. The bill also would have permitted a naturopathic doctor to administer medication intramuscularly, subcutaneously, and intravenously.

House Bill 1527 – Complementary and Alternative Health Care - Practice Authorized (Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act). This bill would have authorized an individual to practice complementary or alternative health care in the State without obtaining a license, certification, or authorization issued under certain provisions of law.

House Bill 1500 – State Agencies - Adoption of Regulations - Required. This bill would have prohibited a unit of State government from collecting any fee or other payment under a state-authorized program until the unit finalizes the adoption of the regulations implementing the program.