



State of Maryland

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**House Bill 286
Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics –
Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: HB 286 extends until January 1, 2026, the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system.

Rationale:

- Chapter 799 of the Laws of 2021 authorized Paramedics to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a local health department or a Maryland hospital or hospital system (SB 67 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccine Administration).
- Unless extended, on January 1, 2023, Paramedics’ authorization to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of these efforts will expire.
- From the time the COVID-19 vaccine became available in early 2021 through September 1, 2021, EMS administered over 80,000 vaccinations to members of the general public as part of public health outreach conducted in partnership with local health departments and hospitals / hospital systems. Nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulances services participated in the COVID-19 vaccination effort. See <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303>
- EMS administered an additional 21,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to State, county and local government employees during that same time period.
- Given the uncertain trajectory of COVID-19 and the annual surge of seasonal influenza, Paramedics may be needed to continue to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and influenza immunizations to the general public as part of public health efforts beyond January 1, 2023.
- HB 286 would extend to January 1, 2026, the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health vaccination outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system.

MIEMSS Supports HB 286 and Urges a Favorable Report