



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Damean W.E. Freas, D.O., Chair

2022 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: HB 353 – Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments

POSITION & RATIONALE:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Support with Amendments regarding HB 353, “Maryland Health Care Commission - User Fee Assessments.” This bill increases the maximum amount in user fees that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) may assess.

The Board licenses physicians and several types of allied health practitioners. Licensees renew every two years on a staggered schedule, based on the type of profession. Currently, Board license renewal fees include a \$26 fee required for the MHCC.

Since July 1, 2019 (Fiscal Year 2020), the Board has paid this \$26 fee for its licensees in order to offer a reduction in renewal fees. In Fiscal Year 2021, the total number of renewing practitioners was 26,995. The Board transferred \$701,870 in revenue to the MHCC. In the first half of Fiscal Year 2022, the Board has transferred \$396,682.

The Board has committed to paying the \$26 fee for each renewing practitioner through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023). An increase in the MHCC user fee will impact the Board’s budget. If the MHCC user fee increases, the Board will be required to either incur additional costs to cover the fee for its licensees or end this licensee benefit by raising license renewal fees.

The Board supports this bill with the amendment introduced by MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, to delete the increase in total fees assessed by the MHCC. The Board agrees with the suggestion from MedChi that the additional MHCC funding be sought from the General Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. Should you have questions, contact Matthew Dudzic, Health Policy Analyst, at 410-764-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damean W. E. Freas".

Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.