



MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Adams Building, Suite 301
600 Baltimore Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Telephone: (410) 332-0736

Facsimile: (410) 332-0885

OPPOSE – Senate Bill 159/House Bill 462 – *Health Occupations – Authorized Prescribers – Reporting of Financial Gratuities or Incentives*

The Maryland Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) **opposes** Senate Bill 159/House Bill 462.

Senate Bill 159/House Bill 462 requires all authorized prescribers, which includes Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), to file with their health occupations board a financial disclosure reporting anything of value received from a pharmaceutical distributor or manufacturer.

MPMA does not object to the disclosure of this information, but strongly objects to the reporting of information for a second time that is already well within the public domain. Indeed, a federal database already exists containing this exact information. It can be found at <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>, and lists anything valued at \$11 or more that has been provided to a DPM, defined here as a “physician”, by a distributor or manufacturer. Therefore, the database, comprised of the same information, is already made available at the federal level and is accessible.

Finally, if it is determined that a DPM/physician is prescribing excessive amounts of medication while also taking financial gratuities from a manufacturer, there are existing disciplinary grounds to address this. See Health Occ’s, §16-3111(a)(9), (a)(14) and (a)(17). The combination of the existing federal database and existing Maryland law give the Board all the tools it needs and makes this legislation duplicative.

While MPMA would be happy to entertain a potential amendment, like those that passed the Senate linking the federal database to physician profiles, it is our understanding that the cost to the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners would be cost prohibitive due to the much smaller number of podiatrists than M.D.s. Podiatrists’ licensing fees are already one of the highest in Maryland.

For these reasons, MPMA opposes Senate Bill 159/House Bill 462.

For more information Contact: Richard Bloch, MPMA Executive Director, at richard@sbhpa.com or Sarah Peters, MPMA Legislative Consultant, at speters@hbstrategies.us.