



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 30, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 295 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 295. This legislation seeks to enhance reimbursement for emergency medical services, transportation, or mobile integrated health models. As amended, the legislation requires the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to study emergency and nonemergency interfacility transport for patients enrolled in Maryland Medicaid. MHA recognizes the value of these proposals and the need to ensure sustainable funding for EMS services and deploy EMS transport services when needed to ensure patients can access the appropriate level of care.

As the health care landscape changes, providers throughout the health care continuum must evolve, and EMS personnel must adapt to the new needs of their communities. To this end, the state and the federal government are creating new payment opportunities for EMS and EMS professionals. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model, recognizing the vital role EMS plays in the health care system. Under ET3, Medicare will reimburse approved providers for transport to an alternative care setting, like an urgent care center, and for treatment without transportation to a facility, known as treat and release. SB 295 expands this model to Maryland's Medicaid Program.

Maryland already is well-positioned to access opportunities afforded in the model. The Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems adopted protocols to allow transportation to an alternative destination. Four Maryland jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Charles County, and the city of Annapolis were invited to participate in the ET3 Model.

We appreciate the General Assembly's leadership and support on issues related to emergency medical services and urge a favorable report on SB 295.

For more information, please contact:
Erin Dorrien, Vice President, Policy
edorrien@mhaonline.org