

MedChi NEWS

New 2025 Health Measures Take Effect Oct. 1

NEW 2025 HEALTH MEASURES TO TAKE EFFECT OCT. 1

Several key health measures have taken effect already this year and additional measures are scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1, 2025. MedChi will continue to monitor all health-related legislation throughout the year.

- **House Bill 39** repeals the prohibition on an individual from knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to another individual.
- **House Bill 367** standardizes English proficiency requirements across states for health occupation licenses, specifically targeting nurses and other healthcare professionals and removes unnecessary barriers for out-of-state licensed professionals seeking licensure in Maryland.
- **House Bill 421** modifies how funds from the Maryland 9-1-1 Trust Fund can be used, specifically to allow limited support for the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline while ensuring the fund remains primarily focused on 9-1-1 services.
- **House Bill 424** strengthens the authority of Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board to address high drug costs, revises how upper payment limits are set, and changes the makeup of the Stakeholder Council that advises the Board.
- **House Bill 466** expands legal definitions and protections related to veterans and service members in Maryland and ensures all members of the uniformed services, not just the armed forces, are included in laws related to public health, healthcare licensing, and housing assistance.
- **House Bill 776** updates and modernizes laws governing the State Board of Physicians and the regulation of physicians, physician assistants, and allied health professionals in Maryland. It removes outdated provisions, improves clarity and consistency, and strengthens regulatory authority.
- **House Bill 783** strengthens cultural competency requirements for healthcare professionals in Maryland by mandating that license and certificate renewals include training not just on implicit bias, but also on structural racism. It allows these trainings to count toward continuing education (CE) requirements, subject to board regulations.
- **House Bill 798** enhances transparency and public accountability in how Maryland uses funds from opioid-related legal settlements and requires the creation of an interactive online dashboard that tracks and displays Opioid Restitution Fund spending and related data.
- **House Bill 820** addresses the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic tools in the healthcare insurance industry, specifically in the utilization review process. It also establishes requirements and guardrails to ensure these technologies are used responsibly, transparently, and fairly by insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and private review agents.
- **House Bill 848** strengthens consumer protections and oversight related to health insurance adverse decisions—denials of coverage or payment—and expands the Maryland Insurance Administration's authority to review insurer practices when denial rates increase significantly.
- **House Bill 1066** directs the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to create a specialized workgroup focused on improving outcomes related to substance use. The workgroup will study how laws, policies, and practices impact people with substance use disorders, particularly concerning criminalization and treatment discharge, and recommend reforms.
- **House Bill 1251** promotes transparency and accountability regarding obstetric services in Maryland hospitals and among medical liability insurers. It requires hospitals to have clear policies on obstetric care and obligates insurers to disclose their coverage policies related to obstetric services.
- **House Bill 1292** updates Maryland law to align with federal standards regarding health insurance provider directories. It shortens the required update timeframe and revises the information that must be included and disclosed, improving accuracy and consumer access.
- **House Bill 1380** mandates the establishment and enforcement of minimum perinatal care standards for all hospitals and freestanding birthing centers in Maryland that provide obstetrical services. It aims to ensure high-quality, consistent care for mothers and newborns across the state.
- **House Bill 1502** renames and revises Baltimore City's AIDS Prevention Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Pilot Program, now called the HIV Prevention Syringe Services Program, updating its duties, oversight, and legal protections to improve harm reduction efforts.
- **House Bill 1510** updates the method by which healthcare providers must notify patients about the destruction of their medical records, allowing for more flexibility while ensuring patients are properly informed.

"These new health laws represent a significant step forward in ensuring better access, transparency, and quality of care for all Marylanders. By prioritizing patient rights, safety, and equity, we are building a healthier, more inclusive future for our communities starting this October." - **Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO.**