



Maryland
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 258- Hospital Credentialing - Reappointment Process for Physician Staff -
Modification**

Position: *Support*
February 16, 2023
Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 258.

Maryland is facing a critical staffing shortage across health care occupations. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

Hospitals are required by state law to establish a credentialing process for physicians as a condition of licensure.¹ The law requires a formal written reappointment process every two years. SB 258 would change this requirement to align state law with the standards of The Joint Commission, which is the accrediting body for hospitals.

Recently, The Joint Commission [changed](#) the credentialing time frame for practitioners working in hospitals from two years to at least three years.² According to The Joint Commission, this change aligns with the standard practice of evaluating licensed practitioners every three years. In recent meetings, representatives from The Joint Commission shared that this change should save time and money, especially for large health care systems. However, only states with statutes that defer to The Joint Commission's timelines can benefit. If SB 258 does not pass, Maryland hospitals will not be able to benefit from this extension at a time when they need it the most.

This legislation ensures that if the recommended credentialing timeline changes, Maryland hospitals can be nimble and adjust their practices rather than have to request a statutory fix.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 258.

For more information, please contact:
Brian Frazee, Vice President, Government Affairs
Bfrazee@mhaonline.org

¹ [Health General 19-319\(e\)\(2\)](#)

² The Joint Commission. (2023). "[Revisions Related to Licensed Practitioner Evaluation Time Frames](#),".