

2024 Legislative Actions to Strengthen Maryland's Hospital Workforce

The General Assembly passed legislation to support Maryland's health care workforce, expand access to care, and address factors impacting emergency department throughput.

Licensure Exception for Limited X-Ray Machine Operators

[SB 830/HB 934- Limited X-Ray Machine Operators](#): This bill allows a health care worker with at least six months of clinical care experience to perform limited X-rays of the chest, spine, and extremities in physician offices and urgent care centers under supervision of a physician or radiologic technologist after completing training and passing an exam approved by the Board of Physicians. The Board will develop regulations, create a registration process, and submit a report by Oct. 1, 2029, to the Senate Finance and House Health & Government Operations committees that includes recommendations to continue the registration process or create a limited license. This exception will be in place until Dec. 31, 2030. After that, legislative action will be needed to continue the licensure exception or create a limited license. The bill goes into effect Jan. 1, 2025.

Pathways to Nursing Pilot Program

[SB 718 Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment](#): This bill establishes a pilot program to support students enrolled in licensed practical nursing programs. On or before July 1, 2025, the Secretary must issue grants to at least two pilot sites located in diverse areas of the state. Through these pilot programs, eligible students will receive financial assistance to cover the cost of computers, textbooks, supplies, educational support services and wraparound support services including assistance with transportation, childcare, elder care and other living expenses that pose a barrier to a student's ability to successfully complete the program. The advisory committee is tasked with assisting the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop and implement the program. The Maryland Higher Education Commission must submit a report about the program on Dec. 15, 2024, and annually thereafter to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly.

Bridge to Residency Act & Extension of Licensure Exception for Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists

[HB 757 State Board of Physicians - Supervised Medical Graduates and Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists \(Bridge to Medical Residency Act\)](#): This bill extends the licensure exception indefinitely for registered cardiovascular invasive specialists (RCIS) to perform duties delegated by a physician while assisting with the performance of fluoroscopy during a cardiac catheterization procedure within a hospital cardiac catheterization laboratory. When this licensure exception was first created by legislation, there was a proposed end date and a mandated study to evaluate the safety implications. In October 2023, the Maryland Health Care Commission released a [study](#) showing no radiation injuries associated with the work of RCIS in Maryland hospitals. This bill also allows a medical school graduate who does not match into a residency program to perform duties delegated by a physician under supervision. The Board will promulgate regulations and develop a process for monitoring these supervised medical graduates.