

2019 Maryland General Assembly MHA Impact Overview

The legislature adjourned Sine Die on April 8. MHA successfully advocated in support of the hospital field's priorities during this session; here are a few key achievements. A more detailed summary and additional advocacy material will be available soon.

TOP 5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **SECURED** a \$25 million Medicaid Deficit Assessment reduction for fiscal year 2020
2. **PASSED MHA bill** to modernize the CON process
3. **DEFEATED** legislation requiring complex disclosure requirements on hospital-based outpatient clinics
4. **PASSED MHA bill** to improve Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
5. **FENDED OFF** trial attorney effort to gut the 20% Rule

BUDGET



- **PROTECTED** nearly \$30 million for Maryland's two Institutions for Mental Diseases in fiscal year 2020
- **DELIVERED** \$5.5 million in the capital budget to support nine hospital projects across the state

MEDICAL LIABILITY



- **INTRODUCED** MHA bill to begin efforts to reform life care plans
- **DEFEATED** efforts to raise the caps on non-economic damages

WORKFORCE



- **PASSED** scope of practice legislation to address staffing shortages in cardiac cath labs
- **PRESERVED** \$42 million to bolster Maryland's community behavioral health workforce

QUALITY & ACCESS



- **SECURED** budget language requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration to report on certain carrier trends
- **REVISED** legislation to ensure updates to the Patient Bill of Rights law align with federal requirements and hospital practice

CAPACITY



- **DEFEATED** effort to restrict hospitals' abilities to close, partially close or merge
- **AMENDED** legislation to align ambulatory surgical center Certificates of Need exemptions to conform with MHA's task force recommendations