

2020 Maryland General Assembly Sine Die Report

The Maryland General Assembly adjourned Sine Die March 18—cutting short the legislative session for the first time in memory due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak. From the time the world learned about this virus, your hospitals have been on the frontlines, and MHA continues to work closely with Gov. Larry Hogan, the Maryland Department of Health and state and local leaders to ensure your teams have regular communication and resources needed to keep Marylanders safe. Your MHA team worked to advance several emergency bills to address the public health crisis including removing barriers for care delivered via telehealth.

Lawmakers are expected to return in May for a special session to take up key bills. Despite the abbreviated timeline, MHA secured several field priorities this session.

PROGRESS ON MHA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



RESCUE MARYLAND'S MEDICAL LIABILITY CLIMATE

Secured study on opportunities to stabilize the hospital reinsurance market
Resisted efforts to eliminate the cap on non-economic damages



BUILD & RETAIN MARYLAND'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Passed MHA legislation to double funding and streamline administration of physician loan repayment program
Advanced multiple bills to prevent workplace violence and support health care workers



IMPROVE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Passed MHA legislation allowing behavioral health patients to bypass hospital emergency departments
Protected funding for Maryland's two Institutions for Mental Diseases



REDUCE MEDICAID DEFICIT ASSESSMENT

Secured a \$15 million Medicaid Deficit Assessment reduction for fiscal year 2021

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Secured** one-year delay and limited service inclusion for outpatient facility fees disclosure
- **Fended** off effort to create community benefit spending floor and new regulatory oversight
- **Ensured** continuation of consumer protections from the Affordable Care Act
- **Defeated** legislation that would have restricted hospitals' ability to collect medical debts
- **Amended** legislation to align hospital financial assistance and charity care requirements with current hospital practices
- **Delivered** \$6.6 million in the capital budget to support 8 hospital projects across the state
- **Supported** sexual assault survivors and expanded forensic reimbursement timeframes