



**MARYLAND**

CHAPTER

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**AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of CARDIOLOGY®**

February 21, 2024

### **HB 757**

#### **State Board of Physicians-Supervised Medical Graduates and Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists**

HB 757 would state in law that RCISs may perform fluoroscopy in cardiac cath labs. Dr. Marine sat on the Board of Physicians workgroup that created and passed legislation to make this a reality and inspired other chapters to pass similar legislation. Chapter sent letter of strong support to the Committee. Short review of how we got here:

- Pre-2019 only radiologic technologists could perform fluoroscopy in Cath Labs.
- allowed CV Invasive Specialists to assist physicians in fluoroscopy in a hospital cath lab for five years while the Maryland Health Care Commission performed a study and reported its outcome: [2019 Regular Session - Fiscal and Policy Note for House Bill 924 \(maryland.gov\)](#).
- Study Completed in August 2023: [HB924Ch445\(3\)\(2019\) 2023.pdf \(state.md.us\)](#)
- No radiation injuries reported.
- No civil penalties issued.
- Radiologic technologist vacancies increased from 13% in FY 20 to 31% in FY 23, trained RCISs remained available.

### **HB 1388**

#### **Labor and Employment – Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Clauses – Veterinary and Health Care Professionals**

Legislation has been introduced in the House of Delegates (HB 1388) that would ban non-competes in our state. It is entitled

This issue is a priority for Maryland ACC as we have heard from a vast number of Chapter members that they support a ban. In 2023, the FTC received much publicity for proposing to ban [non-competes](#). Your chapter along with many other chapters and the national ACC sent letters expressing support for the proposed ban, but it remains uncertain if the FTC will be able to issue a rule banning them and whether it will be enforceable. Therefore, statewide efforts are

critical. The AMA took [a position](#) against non-competes last year was very helpful and MedChi has followed suit. Partly due to our efforts on a MedChi workgroup, a state delegate has just submitted this legislation that will essentially ban these agreements for all physicians in Maryland.

### **BUDGET FY 2025**

Governor's FY2025 budget proposal cuts physician E/M code funding by \$10 million dollars. Because Medicaid is a state/federal program, this budget cut triggers a \$15 million dollar reduction in federal funds, for a total cut of nearly \$25 million. Medicaid enrollment covers over 1.8 million of Maryland's most vulnerable patients. E/M funding is essential to recruit and retain a physician workforce to deliver the care they need. Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and stroke account for more than 32% of deaths in the United States and Maryland and is far more prevalent in economically distressed communities.

### **CV BOARD (language below from website [cvboard.org](http://cvboard.org))**

Cardiology has evolved into a distinct medical specialty, requiring extensive knowledge and training specific to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease that is separate from the field of internal medicine. With this evolution, it is time for a new competency-based approach to continuous certification – one that harnesses the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to sustain professional excellence and care for cardiovascular patients effectively.

To that end, a consortium of cardiovascular societies has come together to submit an application to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) requesting the creation of a new Board of Cardiovascular Medicine. The societies have worked collaboratively to put together concepts for a new Board to effectively sustain professional excellence and provide cardiovascular patients with the utmost confidence in their care.

### **Senate Bill 791/House Bill 932**

#### **Reducing and Streamlining the Volume of Prior Authorization Requirements**

See separate information from MedChi noting that there was a bill in 2023 that focused on step therapy but also started addressing prior authorization. These bills go further to address the issue in a more comprehensive manner.