



Legislative Wrap Up 2023 Session

APRIL 20, 2023



End of Session Fun Facts



- ❑ Sine Die April 10th - The 445th Legislative Session Concluded
- ❑ Bills introduced in the Senate - 1365
- ❑ Bills introduced in the House - 1699
- ❑ Bills Passed - 810
- ❑ Bills Enacted To Date - 93



2023 Legislative Highlights

HB 200 – Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2024) – (Enacted)

Passed a \$63 billion budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024

- Included \$5.1 billion for projects in the capital budget;
- Included \$900 million to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future fund
(the state’s savings account for an ongoing ten-year education reform effort);
- Maintained \$2.85 billion in cash reserves which includes:

\$2.5 billion in the Rainy-Day Fund (Revenue Stabilization Account); and
\$351 million in the state’s general fund (surplus).



2023 Legislative Highlights

❑ Safeguarding Reproductive Choice:

SB798/HB705: Guaranteeing Access to Abortion

- Reproductive Freedom Amendment to the Maryland Constitution (ballot for 2024).

SB786/HB812: Protecting Privacy of Reproductive Health Information

- Prohibits violations of patient privacy and imposes criminal penalties when information is wrongfully disclosed by any health care provider.

❑ Cannabis Reform:

SB516: Cannabis Reform

- Created a regulatory framework for a legal cannabis market.

2023 Legislative Highlights



❑ Improving Public Safety:

SB001: Shielding Public Spaces from Gun Violence - strengthened concealed carry licensing laws prohibits bringing firearms into public areas such as schools, polling places, and government building.

SB858: Storing Guns Safely - The bill criminalizes unsafe gun storage by an adult that allows a minor to gain access.

❑ Advancing the Governor's Agenda:

The Moore/Miller Administration proposed a 10-point package to the General Assembly.
All Passed.

- *SB551: Creating The "SERVE" Act*
- *SB555: Accelerating the \$15 Minimum Wage*
- *HB1219: Hiring and Retaining Teachers*
- *SB552: Expanding Economic Opportunities for Low-Income Families*



2023 Legislative Highlights

MHCC 2024 Budget Appropriation

- ❑ \$36,693, 921 (Special Fund Appropriation)
- ❑ Includes \$12.5 million for the Trauma Fund
- ❑ Includes \$ 1.0 million General Funds for the Patient Safety Center

Budget Actions:

- ❑ Restricts \$100,000 in the 2024 appropriation, contingent on the enactment of SB 786 or HB 812, until MHCC submits a letter confirming the submission of regulations related to health information exchanges and electronic health records within 30 days of the submission of regulations.
- ❑ Requires MHCC to submit a report on the criteria for allocating \$9,500,000 in trauma facility funding 45 days prior to the transfer of funds from the DPA to MHCC for allocation to trauma centers.

2023 MHCC Legislative Highlights



Mandate Studies

- ❑ [SB0075](#) - Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Treatment of Alopecia Areata – Coverage Requirements (Bill Failed) - *Study report due December 2023.*

- ❑ [SB0108](#) - HI – Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits – Coverage and Reimbursement (Bill Failed) - *Study report due December 2023.*

- ❑ [SB0184/](#)[HB0376](#) - HI - Diagnostic and Supplemental Exams and Biopsies for Breast Cancer - Cost-Sharing - *MHCC to study and report on the financial impact of eliminating cost-sharing for diagnostic image-guided biopsies for breast cancer. Report due on or before October 1, 2023.*

- ❑ [HB1217/](#)[SB0805](#)-Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Biomarker Testing - *Report on the impact of providing biomarker testing by December 1, 2025.*

2023 MHCC Legislative Highlights



Health Care Workforce

- ❑ [SB0283/HB0418](#) - Mental Health - Workforce Development - Fund Established - *Requires MHCC to conduct a comprehensive behavioral health workforce needs assessment in coordination with the BHA, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, the Career and Technical Education Committee, and other interested stakeholders. Needs Assessment due on or before October 15, 2024.*

Trauma Funding

- ❑ [SB0493/HB0675](#) - Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland - *MIEMSS and MHCC shall jointly chair and staff commission. Study the adequacy of trauma center funding. On or before December 1, 2023, the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.*

2023 MHCC Legislative Highlights



Nursing Homes

- ❑ **SB0509/HB0702** -HCF - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions and Licensure - *MHCC in consultation with certain stakeholders, to study and make recommendations regarding the expansion of the certificate of need program over acquisitions of nursing homes. Submit a report with recommendations from stakeholders to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2023.*

Electronic Health Records and Information Exchange

- ❑ **SB0648** - EHNs and EMRs - Nursing Homes - Release of Records - *Review legislation in relation to and make sure consistent with HB 1022 (passed in 2021) in regulation.*

2023 MHCC Legislative Highlights



Protected Health Information

- ❑ [SB0786/](#)[HB0812](#) - Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Information and Insurance Requirements - *MHCC must (1) adopt emergency regulations within nine months of the bill's effective date to restrict data of patients related to legally protected health care and (2) submit quarterly reports on the bill's implementation in fiscal 2024 and 2025. Regulations must be developed by December 2023.*

Dental Health Services

- ❑ [HB1146](#) - MDH and MHCC - Dental Services - Survey and Regional Needs Assessment - *By December 1, 2023, MDH and MHCC, jointly and in consultation with MHA, must submit a report to specified committees of the General Assembly that includes the results of the survey and the regional needs assessment, as well as the regional plans.*



2023 MHCC Legislative Highlights

Telehealth

- ❑ [SB0534](#) - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023 - *MHCC must study and make recommendations regarding the delivery of health care services through telehealth, as specified, and [report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2024](#).*
- ❑ [HB1148/SB0582](#) - Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland) - *Requires the MHCC to study and make recommendations regarding the delivery of health care services through telehealth, including payment parity for the delivery of health care services through audiovisual and audio-only telehealth technologies [on or before December 1, 2024](#).*

The Beginning

