



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 58- Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes

Position: *Support*

February 5, 2026

House Environment and Transportation Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 58.

HB 58 addresses an important gap in access to transportation for elderly and disabled patients who receive care across county lines. The bill would require counties seeking state transportation funding to identify interjurisdictional paratransit service routes and would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to establish procedures to ensure counties coordinate these services.

Maryland's hospital systems increasingly operate facilities across multiple jurisdictions, and many patients require highly specialized care that is not always available within the county in which they reside. However, current county-operated paratransit programs are often limited to transporting individuals only within county boundaries. This creates significant barriers for patients who depend on paratransit services to access medically necessary care.

For example, a patient living in Montgomery County who requires specialized treatment at a hospital in Baltimore City may not be able to use county paratransit services for that trip, even when the care is unavailable closer to home. In these situations, hospitals may work with private transportation vendors to assist patients with limited mobility or financial resources, but these arrangements are not always feasible or sustainable.

HB 58 promotes coordination among counties and encourages the development of interjurisdictional paratransit routes, helping ensure that patients can access appropriate care regardless of county lines. While hospitals do not rely on county paratransit services for their operations, they view these services as a valuable support that improves patient access, continuity of care, and health outcomes.

HB 58 takes a reasonable and targeted approach by linking coordination requirements to funding applications and by directing MDOT to establish procedures that promote cooperation while allowing flexibility in implementation.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 58.

For more information, please contact:

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