

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution __-24

INTRODUCED BY: Montgomery County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Publicly Accessible Database for Determining
the Location of Medical Records of Retired or Relocated
Physicians

1 Whereas, patients often face significant difficulties in locating their medical records after their
2 physician has retired or relocated, especially when several years have passed since the
3 physician left practice; and
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5 Whereas, continuity of care and the ability to access historical medical records are critical to
6 ensuring patients receive appropriate and timely medical treatment; and
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8 Whereas, the lack of a centralized, publicly accessible database for locating medical records
9 creates unnecessary barriers for patients and places a burden on them to navigate complex
10 processes to retrieve their own health information; and
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12 Whereas, patients may be unaware of where their medical records are stored after a physician
13 retires or moves, leading to delays in obtaining important medical information for ongoing
14 care; and
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16 Whereas, many states have implemented policies or regulations requiring retired or relocated
17 physicians to inform patients or state medical boards of the location of their medical records,
18 but Maryland currently lacks a standardized, easily accessible system for this purpose; and
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20 Whereas, establishing a centralized database, which would contain no PHI, managed by the
21 Maryland Board of Physicians, would streamline the process for patients to locate their
22 medical records, reduce administrative burdens on healthcare providers, and enhance patient
23 care; therefore be it
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25 RESOLVED, that MedChi seek and/or support legislation or regulation that requires the
26 Maryland Board of Physicians to establish and maintain a publicly accessible database where
27 patients can easily find the location of their medical records and/or information on how to
28 access the medical records of retired or relocated physicians; and that MedChi advocate for
29 legislation and/or regulatory measures, if necessary, to require physicians who retire, relocate,
30 or otherwise close their practice to inform the Maryland Board of Physicians of the storage
31 location for patient medical records, to ensure this information is available in the database for
32 a minimum of 7 years following the physician's departure from practice.
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Fiscal Note: