

During the 2016 Session, Maryland enacted Senate Bill 707 Freestanding Medical Facilities- Certificate of Need, Rates and Definition, which establishes a process for acute care general hospitals seeking to convert to a freestanding medical facility. As part of this process, the law includes requirements for acute care general hospitals seeking a conversion without obtaining a Certificate of Need from the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). These requirements include that the conversion “will maintain adequate and appropriate delivery of emergency care within the statewide emergency medical services system as determined by the State Emergency Medical Services Board.”

The EMS Board has begun promulgating regulations regarding this determination, including the factors the EMS Board shall consider in making such a determination, as well as a timeline for the process. MIEMSS met with members of the EMS community and other stakeholders to develop draft regulations and is seeking informal comments on the draft regulations from the public or other interested parties.

A copy of the draft regulations is available on the MIEMSS website for informal comment at <http://bit.ly/2b6l9pp>. Informal comments on the draft may be emailed to Lisa Myers, Director of Cardiac and Special Programs at [lmyers@miemss.org](mailto:lmyers@miemss.org) until September 8, 2016 at 5:00 pm. Once the draft regulations are approved by the EMS Board for promulgation, the draft will be posted in the *Maryland Register* for 30 days for formal public comment during which time additional comments will be accepted.