



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA Issue Backgrounder

Definition of Surgery HB 266 (Peace) and SB 543 (Martin)

Currently there is no legal definition of surgery in the Code of Virginia. Increasingly, and as federal and state policies promote team-care approaches, there are more opportunities for various health care providers to deliver services which may not be clearly within their training and education. Consequently, there is a need to define what constitutes surgery, who may perform surgical procedures on patients, and which entities are appropriate to monitor and ensure patient safety and quality.

Given the Medical Society of Virginia's (MSV) support of the team-based care model and ongoing focus on quality care and patient safety, the organization supports HB 266 and SB 543, which will define surgery without unnecessarily restricting physicians or other professionals from practicing to the appropriate limit of their education and training.

The proposed definition of surgery in HB 266 and SB 543 is based on language developed by the American College of Surgeons and adopted by the American Medical Association and was guided by the following parameters:

- The definition should limit surgery to physicians, dentists and podiatrists licensed by the Board of Medicine or Board of Dentistry.
- No other board or agency should regulate performance of surgery.
- The definition should not limit currently allowed or legal procedures performed by allied health professions.
- It should not limit or attempt to define procedures performed by different physicians practicing within their professionally accepted scope.

This legislation is an effective way to help ensure patients are receiving safe and properly regulated surgical procedures.

Supporting Organizations

Medical Society of Virginia
American Academy of Pediatrics - Virginia Chapter
Virginia Academy of Family Physicians
Virginia Chapter - American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Virginia Chapter - American College of Physicians
Virginia Chapter - American College of Radiology
Virginia Chapter - American College of Surgeons

Virginia College of Emergency Physicians
Virginia Orthopaedic Society
Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists
Virginia Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
Virginia Society of Otolaryngologists
Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons

Please support HB 266 (Peace) and SB 543

For more information, contact the Medical Society of Virginia's government affairs department by phone at 804 | 343-1185, or visit the MSV Web site, www.msv.org/legislative.

