



November 15, 2019

The Honorable Joanne Comerford
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts Senate
24 Beacon Street
State House, Room 70-C
Boston, MA 02133-1099
jo.comerford@masenate.gov

The Honorable John Mahoney
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133-1099
john.mahoney@mahouse.gov

RE: Support MA H.1964: An Act Relative to Defining Surgery

Dear Chairwoman Comerford, Chairman Mahoney and Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 1964. We believe this legislation is an important step in protecting the safety of patients in Massachusetts.

We appreciate that H. 1964 recognizes that the practice of surgery is part of the practice of medicine and that it is critical to patient safety that the practice of medicine is limited to board-certified physicians.

We also support the inclusion of laser use in the definition of surgery. Any procedure which utilizes energy-based devices capable of damaging living tissue performed on human beings for cutaneous conditions should be considered as the practice of medicine. Procedures performed with lasers are consistent with the definition of surgery in ASDSA's Patients/Physicians United for Laser Safety and Efficacy (PULSE) model legislation "Safe Laser and Energy-Based Device Act."¹

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide comments on this important public health issue and urge you to support H. 1964. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Hellquist, ASDSA Director of Advocacy and Practice Affairs, at (847) 956-9144, or by email at khellquist@asds.net.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health

¹ *Safe Laser and Energy-Based Device Act*. Retrieved Nov. 14, 2019.
<http://asdsa.asds.net/uploadedFiles/Safe%20Laser%20and%20Energy-Based%20Device%20Act.pdf>