

CHAPTER 428

(House Bill 1227)

AN ACT concerning

Charles County - Free Standing Clinics

~~FOR the purpose of establishing standards for the operation, staffing, facilities, and equipment of free standing medical clinics in Charles County, and establishing standards governing the advertisement and signs for free standing clinics in Charles County.~~

FOR the purpose of allowing the County Commissioners of Charles County to adopt regulations to govern free standing clinics in Charles County; defining free standing clinic; providing for certain duties of the health officer for Charles County; providing for penalty and enforcement procedures; and generally relating to free standing clinics in Charles County.

BY adding to

The Public Local Laws of Charles County
Section 334A and the new title "Medical Treatment and
Facilities"
Article 9 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
(1969 Edition and 1977 Supplement, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 9 - Charles County

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND FACILITIES

334A.

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FREE-STANDING CLINIC" MEANS A MEDICAL FACILITY THAT OFFERS MEDICAL TREATMENT OF A CONVENIENCE NATURE WHICH IS PHYSICALLY SEPARATE FROM A HOSPITAL OR HOSPITAL GROUNDS.~~

~~(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL "FREE-STANDING CLINICS" IN CHARLES COUNTY.~~

~~(C) UNLESS THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION ARE MET, A FREE-STANDING CLINIC MAY NOT USE IN ITS TITLE OR IN ANY ADVERTISEMENT OF ITS SERVICES WORDS WHICH MAY LEAD THE PUBLIC TO BELIEVE THE CLINIC CAN PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT. THIS PROHIBITION INCLUDES THE USE OF THE WORDS "EMERGENCY", "URGENT", OR OTHER WORDS CLEARLY INDICATING THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR IMMEDIATELY LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS.~~