

WHEREAS, Medical review committees of community health centers are not governed by the current law providing civil immunity and confidentiality for those who participate in medical review committee activities or proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Community health center medical review committees need civil immunity and confidentiality for those who participate in medical review committee activities to ensure the continuing improvement of the health care services they provide; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health Occupations

14-601.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) "Alternative health care system" means a system of health care delivery other than a hospital or related institution.

(ii) "Alternative health care system" includes:

- 1. A health maintenance organization;
- 2. A preferred provider organization;
- 3. An independent practice association;

[or]

OR

~~4. A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AS DEFINED IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.~~

4. A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER THAT IS A NONPROFIT, FREESTANDING AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER GOVERNED BY A VOLUNTARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THAT PROVIDES PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE MEDICALLY INDIGENT, BOTH INSURED AND UNDERINSURED.

(3) "Medical review committee" means a committee or board that:

(i) Is within one of the categories described in subsection (b) of this section; and

(ii) Performs any of the functions listed in subsection (c) of this section.