

treatment for individual procedures or diseases that are subject to medical malpractice litigation. The parameters are meant to discourage inappropriate use of health care services; conform with standards of care; and meet certification, licensure or accreditation standards.

The Committee's fifteen members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, who designates the chair (Code Health—General Article, secs. 19-1601 through 19-1606).

STATE HEALTH RESOURCES PLANNING COMMISSION

George S. Malouf, Sr., M.D., *Chair*, 1997
James R. Stanton, *Executive Director*

4201 Patterson Ave., Room 226
Baltimore, MD 21215 (410) 764-3255

The State Health Resources Planning Commission originated in 1968 as the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency (Chapter 221, Acts of 1968). The Agency was reformed as the Maryland Health Planning and Development Agency in 1978 (Chapter 911, Acts of 1978). In 1982, the State Health Resources Planning Commission replaced the Agency (Chapter 108, Acts of 1982).

The Commission promotes the development of a health care system that provides quality care at reasonable cost for all citizens. The Commission plans the development of quality health services within each health service area to meet current and future needs; identifies essential resources; and encourages the effective use of those resources. The Commission advocates policies and systems for efficient access to services, including acute, long-term, mental health, primary care, and community-based alternatives. The Commission also coordinates its work with the State Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission and assesses the impact of plans and projects on total health care costs to Maryland and its citizens. In addition, the Commission prepares the State Health Plan and conducts the Certificate of Need Program to assure that institutions meet standards of public need before constructing new facilities.

The law creating the Commission also established local health planning agencies to serve health service areas designated by the Governor. These agencies are required to assure broad citizen representation of their region and in their activities, formulate local health plans, and help develop state-wide criteria and standards for Certificate of Need and health planning.

The Commission has fourteen members. Thirteen are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene

serves ex officio. The Governor names the chair. With the Governor's approval, the Commission appoints the Executive Director (Code Health—General Article, secs. 19-103 through 19-122).

STATE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION

Charles O. Fisher, Sr., Esq., *Chair*, 1997
Robert B. Murray, *Executive Director*

4201 Patterson Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215 (410) 764-2605

The State Health Services Cost Review Commission was established in 1971 to monitor all fiscal affairs of Maryland's hospitals and related institutions (Chapter 627, Acts of 1971). The Commission publicly may disclose a hospital's financial position, its verified total costs incurred in rendering health services, and the level of reasonableness of its rates as determined by Commission review and certification. The Commission also evaluates the adequacy of each institution's financial resources to meet its financial requirements. When these resources are inadequate, the Commission seeks solutions.

The Commission assures purchasers of hospital health care that total costs are reasonable, that aggregate rates are set in relation to the hospital's aggregate costs, and that rates are set equitably among all purchasers of services.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, who names the chair. Authorization for the Commission continues until July 1, 2003 (Code Health—General Article, secs. 19-201 through 19-222).

BUSINESS & REGULATORY SERVICES

Ferrier R. Stillman, *Assistant Secretary
for Business & Regulatory Services*

201 West Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 767-6566

Business and Regulatory Services was created in 1995. The Assistant Secretary oversees the health regulatory functions of the Department and directs the Department regulatory and licensing programs. This entails oversight of the Office of Regulations Coordination, the administrative functions of the Board of Review, the Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, the Office of Licensing and Certification Programs, and the Policy and Health Statistics Administration. Working with the health professionals boards and the State Commission on Kidney Disease, the Assistant Secretary serves as a liaison with the business community.