

STATE OF MARYLAND THE GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES OF WHICH COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF TWO OR MORE ADJACENT COUNTIES.

875.

[[(A) THE COUNTIES WITHIN A REGION ARE AUTHORIZED TO FORM A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING AGENCY. THE FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY, WHEN ESTABLISHED, ARE TO ACHIEVE EQUAL ACCESS BY CITIZENS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT REASONABLE COST; TO PROVIDE PRIMARY CARE SERVICES FOR MEDICALLY UNDESERVED POPULATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE LOCATED IN RURAL OR ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED AREAS; TO DEVELOP MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS FOR COORDINATING AND CONSOLIDATING INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES; TO DEVELOP MEDICAL GROUP PRACTICES, HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER ORGANIZED SYSTEMS FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRAINING AND INCREASED UTILIZATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, ESPECIALLY NURSE CLINICIANS; TO DEVELOP MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHARING OF SUPPORT SERVICES REQUIRED BY HEALTH SERVICE INSTITUTIONS; AND SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS ARE CONTEMPLATED BY PUBLIC LAW 93-641 AND THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER.]]

(A) THE COUNTIES WITHIN A REGION ARE AUTHORIZED TO FORM A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

(1) IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE REGION,

(2) INCREASING THE ACCESSIBILITY (INCLUDING OVERCOMING GEOGRAPHIC, ARCHITECTURAL, AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS), ACCEPTABILITY, CONTINUITY, AND QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED THEM,

(3) RESTRAINING INCREASES IN THE COST OF PROVIDING THEM HEALTH SERVICES,

(4) PREVENTING UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF HEALTH RESOURCES,

(5) PROVIDING EFFECTIVE HEALTH PLANNING FOR THE REGION,

(6) PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE REGION OF HEALTH SERVICES, MANPOWER, AND FACILITIES WHICH MEET IDENTIFIED NEEDS, REDUCE DOCUMENTED INEFFICIENCIES, AND IMPLEMENT THE HEALTH PLANS OF THE AGENCY, AND

(7) CARRYING OUT SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES AS ARE CONTEMPLATED BY PUBLIC LAW 93-641 AND THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER.

[[(B) THE AGENCY SHALL INCLUDE A GOVERNING BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS SHALL INCLUDE NO FEWER THAN THREE PERSONS AND NO LESS THAN ONE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH COUNTY IN THE REGION.]]