

requirement that the leave must not exceed a particular number of days per visit, except that a patient's leave of absence may not exceed a total of 18 days during any 12-month period; and clarifying certain internal cross-references and an agency designation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 43 - Health
Section 566B
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

566B.

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

(2) "Facility" means any intermediate care facility or skilled nursing facility.

(3) "Intermediate care facility" means a nursing facility which meets the standards for certification and participation in Title XIX of the Social Security Act and has entered into a provider agreement with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

(4) "Leave of absence" includes visits with friends or relatives and leaves to participate in State approved therapeutic or rehabilitative programs.

(5) "Recipient" means a person who is certified as eligible for and is receiving medical assistance.

(6) "Skilled nursing facility" means a nursing facility which meets the standards for certification and participation in Title XVIII or Title XIX of the Social Security Act and has entered into a provider agreement with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

(b) In order to ensure that beds are reserved for recipients who are temporarily absent from intermediate care facilities or skilled nursing facilities, the Maryland medical assistance plan shall include the following payments:

(1) If a patient is absent from a facility due to hospitalization for an acute condition, the facility shall receive payment for each day that the patient is hospitalized and a bed is reserved and made available for the patient upon that patient's return.