

of need is ~~not~~ required as a condition to obtaining a certificate to operate a freestanding hospice care facility; providing for the duration of the certificate; providing a fee for the application; providing that the Secretary must promulgate rules and regulations in consultation with the Hospice Reimbursement Study Commission to carry out the provisions of the subtitle; and setting minimum standards for freestanding hospice care facilities.

BY adding to

Article 43 - Health  
 Section 948 through 951, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Freestanding Hospice Care Facilities" Annotated Code of Maryland (1980 Replacement Volume and 1980 Supplement)

#### Preamble

The General Assembly hereby finds that there are individuals who, because of terminal illness, greatly benefit from a residential care environment and who are better able to function through symptom control care which can be provided in a hospice setting. There are individuals who, as they approach death, desire and benefit from living in a residential environment with other individuals who are also terminally ill. Such individuals are able to function without the intensive care and services normally associated with an institutional environment. The essential features of the hospice care environment, established for these individuals, are the absence of lifesaving procedures and monitoring devices which contravene an individual's desire to achieve dignity in dying.

The General Assembly finds that hospice care facilities should be distinguished from traditional patient care institutions to accomplish these objectives; now, therefore,

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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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

##### FREESTANDING HOSPICE CARE FACILITIES

948.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "FREESTANDING HOSPICE CARE FACILITY" OR "FACILITY" MEANS A SEPARATE FACILITY HOUSING TWO TO EIGHT NONRELATED PERSONS WHICH PROVIDES AN ORGANIZED, MEDICALLY DIRECTED, NURSE--COORDINATED, INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO