

effectiveness of the disclosure of information concerning child abuse or neglect to licensed practitioners of hospitals or birthing centers under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved May 10, 2005.

CHAPTER 280

(House Bill 627)

AN ACT concerning

Community Health Care Access and Safety Net Act of 2005

FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility requirements of the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program to cover individuals who are not Medicare beneficiaries, who lack other public or private prescription drug coverage, who have a certain annual household income, and to exclude Medicare beneficiaries; altering the price at which an enrollee in the Program may purchase certain prescription drugs; requiring the ~~Health Services Cost Review Commission~~ hospitals to develop a ~~financial assistance policy for hospitals~~ financial assistance policies to provide free and reduced-cost care to certain patients; requiring hospitals to post a certain notice; requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to develop a uniform financial assistance application and require each hospital to use the application for a certain purpose; ~~requiring the uniform financial assistance application to meet certain requirements;~~ requiring a hospital to provide the uniform financial assistance application to certain patients; ~~requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to develop a standard policy for hospitals to collect debts owed by certain patients~~ hospitals to submit to the Health Services Cost Review Commission certain debt collection policies; requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission ~~annually to obtain from hospitals the amount of money needed to support the cost of a certain specialty network;~~ requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to calculate a certain percentage and determine a certain share of funding owed by each hospital; requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to assess the underlying causes of uncompensated hospital professional services and make certain recommendations to the General Assembly; ~~authorizing the Health Services Cost Review Commission to adopt certain regulations to report to certain Committees~~ committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date on the details of certain hospital policies; requiring nonprofit hospitals to include certain information in their community benefit reports to the Health Services Cost Review Commission; ~~providing that a certain nonprofit health maintenance organization is not subject to the insurance premium tax;~~ establishing the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission as an independent commission that functions within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; establishing the powers and duties of the Maryland