

Approved May 28, 1985.

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CHAPTER 620

(House Bill 453)

AN ACT concerning

Life-Sustaining Procedures

FOR the purpose of providing that under certain conditions any person may voluntarily execute a declaration directing that certain procedures be ~~withheld or withdrawn in the event of a terminal condition~~ initiated, continued, withdrawn, or withheld under certain circumstances; providing that certain actions be taken with respect to a declaration; providing a format and procedures for executing and revoking a declaration; exempting certain persons from certain liability and professional misconduct if the person maintains certain standards; imposing certain liability and providing certain penalties for violations of the provisions of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the use of life-sustaining procedures in this State.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General  
Section 5-601 through 5-613 5-614 to be under the new  
subtitle "Subtitle 6. Life-Sustaining Procedures"  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Volume and 1984 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The sanctity of life is of the foremost importance to all; and

WHEREAS, It is the fundamental right of competent adults, based on the autonomy and sanctity of the individual, to control decisions relating to the rendering of their medical care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, This right includes control over decisions concerning artificial and extraordinary procedures available for the purpose of prolonging their life if they are irreversibly ill; and

WHEREAS, Modern medical technological procedures make possible the prolongation of human life beyond natural limits; and