

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that assuring access to all citizens, regardless of their ability to pay, involves both the reasonableness of costs as well as availability of providers; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is increasingly concerned that there may exist a need for additional health care services for the citizens of Worcester County; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the unique role of Worcester County as a resort area serving all citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that it is in the best interest of all citizens of Maryland that sufficient and adequate health services are available in Worcester County; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes it is feasible to develop a system of care which addresses health care needs without jeopardizing the access to care afforded by the Medicare waiver; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

19-125.

The Secretary:

(1) On the Secretary's initiative or on request of a community or voluntary, nonprofit organization, may do a survey to identify any area in this State that has a substantial deficiency in general medical or health care facilities or services;

(2) In cooperation with appropriate county and State groups, may provide the community or organization with counsel and other help to establish medical or health care facilities and to recruit medical or health care staff in that area; and

(3) If the efforts under item (2) of this section are unsuccessful, may provide the facilities or staff by contract with one or more physicians, hospitals, or other medical groups or personnel.

19-126.

(A) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POWERS OF THE SECRETARY UNDER § 19-125 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION, THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH CARE DEFICIENCIES IN WORCESTER COUNTY.