

CHAPTER 576

(Senate Bill 317)

AN ACT concerning

Hospitals - Blood-Samples Identification
of Newborn Infants

FOR the purpose of requiring certain hospitals-to--take--a--blood sample--from--the--umbilical--cord--of--certain--infants--in--a certain--manner--by--a--certain--time;--requiring--the--hospital that--takes--a--blood--sample--under--this--Act--to--store--the--sample for--a--certain--period--of--time; institutions to perform at least one of the specified newborn infant identification procedures; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations; providing certain immunity to certain institutions under certain circumstances; requiring certain personnel of an institution to be trained in all infant identification procedures used by the institution; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the--taking--of--a blood--sample--from--the--umbilical--cord--of--an--infant--for--the purpose--of--identification the identification of newborn infants.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 20-401 and 20-402 to be under the new subtitle
"Subtitle 4. Infants'-Blood-Samples Identification
of Newborn Infants"Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Two newborn infants were kidnapped from Maryland hospitals during 1987; and

WHEREAS, Infants have also been kidnapped from the hospitals of other states; and

WHEREAS, ~~Umbilical--cord--blood--samples--are--the--only verifiable--form--of--identification--of--infants;--and~~

WHEREAS, ~~The--process--of--obtaining--and--temporarily--storing blood--samples--from--the--umbilical--cord--is--not--costly--or--unduly burdensome--to--hospitals;--and~~

WHEREAS, The ability to positively identify kidnapped infants would serve the interests of the people of Maryland and warrants the particular attention of the medical and law enforcement communities; now, therefore,