

CHAPTER 295

(Senate Bill 15)

AN ACT concerning

Anatomical Gift Act - Cornea Research

FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law relating to the use of corneal tissue so as to include research needs, to require, rather than permit, certain medical examiners to provide corneas upon the request of a certain eye bank, and to include a certain eye bank and research foundation in these provisions of law; providing for a certain distribution of corneal tissue; adding a condition which must be met before certain medical examiners may provide corneas to certain eye banks; exempting certain eye tissue banks from civil liability under certain circumstances; and generally relating to authorization for the use of corneal tissue for research.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Estates and Trusts
Section 4-509.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1988 Supplement)

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

Article - Estates and Trusts

4-509.1.

(a) In any case where [a patient is in] THERE IS A need [of] FOR corneal tissue for a transplant OR RESEARCH, the Chief Medical Examiner, the deputy chief medical examiner, or an assistant medical examiner [may] SHALL provide the cornea upon the request of the Medical Eye Bank of Maryland, Incorporated, OR THE LIONS OF DISTRICT 22-C EYE BANK AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AND under the following conditions:

- (1) The medical examiner has charge of a decedent who may provide a suitable cornea for the transplant OR RESEARCH;
- (2) An autopsy will be required;
- (3) No objection by the next of kin is known by the medical examiner; and