

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1993.

Approved May 11, 1993:

**CHAPTER 299**  
**(House Bill 389)**

AN ACT concerning

**Task Force to Study Health Professional-Client Sexual Exploitation**

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to develop comprehensive strategies for preventing and reducing the incidence of sexual exploitation of clients by health professionals; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of the Task Force; and requiring a certain report.

BY adding to

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments  
Section 18-304  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1990 Replacement Volume and 1992 Supplement)

**Preamble**

WHEREAS, Sexual exploitation of clients by health professionals is widely recognized as a serious problem with significant consequences; and

WHEREAS, A nationwide study of psychiatrists revealed that 65 percent of those responding had been consulted by at least one client who had been sexually exploited by another health professional; and

WHEREAS, Documented cases show clearly that these acts of sexual exploitation usually result in severe harm to clients, which may include loss of employment, marital and family disruption, psychiatric hospitalization, and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, The prevalence of the problem of sexual exploitation undermines the client's confidence in the health professions; and

WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of cases have been reported in Maryland over the past decade, representing eleven percent of all cases referred for prosecution to the Office of the Attorney General by the health professions licensing boards between January 1989 and June 1992; and

WHEREAS, Many organizations, including the Committee on Ethics and the Judiciary of the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the Maryland Psychiatric Society, the Maryland Psychological Association, the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the Medical and Chirurgical