

CHAPTER 18

(Senate Bill 157)

AN ACT concerning

Home Health Agencies

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "home health agency" in provisions of law relating to home health care; and making a conforming change.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 19-401(b) and 19-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1992 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

19-401.

(b) "Home health agency" means a health-related institution, ORGANIZATION, or a part of an institution that:

(1) Is owned or operated by 1 or more persons, whether or not for profit and whether as a public or private enterprise; and

(2) Directly or through a contractual arrangement, provides to a sick or disabled individual in the residence of that individual [home health care that is administered centrally] SKILLED NURSING SERVICES, HOME HEALTH AID SERVICES, AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICE ~~AND~~ THAT ARE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED.

19-404.

(a) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that set standards for the care, treatment, health, safety, welfare, and comfort of patients of home health agencies.

(b) The rules and regulations shall provide for the licensing of home health agencies and annual license renewal, and shall establish standards that require as a minimum, that all home health agencies:

(1) Within 10 days of acceptance of a patient for skilled care, make and record all reasonable efforts to contact a physician to obtain the signed order required under paragraph (2);

(2) That accept patients for skilled care do so only on the signed order of a physician obtained within 28 days after acceptance;