

CHAPTER 432

(House Bill 1403)

AN ACT concerning

Home Health Agencies – Accreditation

FOR the purpose of providing that home health agencies may obtain accreditation by certain organizations; requiring home health agencies to submit certain reports to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; specifying that certain reports shall be available for public inspection; authorizing the Secretary to inspect home health agencies; permitting the Secretary to conduct a certain survey; requiring a certain evaluation; terminating the provisions of this Act on a certain date; and generally relating to home health agencies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

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;

(3) Adopt procedures for the administration of drugs and biologicals;

(4) Maintain clinical records on all patients accepted for skilled care;

(5) Establish patient care policies and personnel policies;

(6) Have services available at least 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, and available on an emergency basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;