

CHAPTER 154
(House Bill 522)

AN ACT concerning

Hospice Care Programs

FOR the purpose of requiring the regulations adopted by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene governing general hospice care programs to be comparable to certain standards; authorizing the Secretary to impose certain administrative penalties; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations and conduct a certain study; authorizing the Secretary to establish a peer review program for hospice care programs; requiring the Secretary to consult with certain persons; providing that certain regulations adopted under this Act must be adopted by a certain date and may not take effect for a certain period; authorizing the Secretary to charge certain fees; and generally relating to hospice care programs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Health - General
Section 19-903 and 19-911
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1990 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

19-903.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

(2) THE REGULATIONS FOR GENERAL HOSPICE CARE PROGRAMS SHALL SET STANDARDS FOR GENERAL HOSPICE CARE PROGRAMS THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL HOSPICE ORGANIZATION.

[(2)](3) The Secretary, by regulation, after consultation with interested groups, including The Hospice Network of Maryland, Inc., shall establish standards for the operation of a [home-based] hospice care program.

(b) (1) The regulations shall set qualifications for medical directors of hospices. A medical director of a hospice care program need not be an employee or a contractee of a hospice care program.

(2) The regulations for a hospice facility shall require:

(i) The medical director to be a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State;