

WHEREAS, Duplicative health care facilities in any location create inefficiency in health care expenditures; and

~~WHEREAS, Maryland's certificate of need program is nationally recognized as a model for planning and distribution of health care facilities; and~~

WHEREAS, The Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission and the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission have successfully controlled hospital-based health care costs; and

WHEREAS, Changes in public policy and private industry are increasing the significance of primary and preventive health care in controlling health care costs; now, therefore,

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

**Article — Health — General**

19-101.

(a) ~~In Part I of this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

(b) ~~"AMBULATORY PRIMARY CARE FACILITY" MEANS ANY CENTER, SERVICE, OFFICE, FACILITY, OR OFFICE OF ONE OR MORE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS OR A GROUP PRACTICE, AS DEFINED IN § 1-301 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE, THAT:~~

~~(1) IS NOT LICENSED AS A HOSPITAL OR A PART OF A HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME;~~

~~(2) HAS A SEPARATE STAFF FUNCTIONING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A CLINIC ADMINISTRATOR OR HEALTH OFFICER AND IS ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE AMBULATORY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES;~~

~~(3) OPERATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO PATIENTS NEEDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT ADDRESS A PATIENT'S GENERAL HEALTH NEEDS, INCLUDING THE COORDINATION OF CARE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE, THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH, THE TREATMENT OF ILLNESS, AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, THE REFERRAL TO SPECIALISTS FOR MORE INTENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES;~~

~~(4) OPERATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT INCLUDE DIAGNOSTIC, TREATMENT, CONSULTATIVE, REFERRAL, AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES THAT ARE GENERALLY RENDERED BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, FAMILY PRACTITIONERS, INTERNISTS, OBSTETRICIANS, GYNECOLOGISTS, PEDIATRICIANS, AND MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS, SUCH AS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, NURSE CLINICIANS, AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS;~~

~~(5) OPERATES AS AN INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION SITE, STAFF MODEL SITE, OR GROUP MODEL SITE OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE~~