

Preamble

WHEREAS, At the same time the population of the State is aging, the advent of managed care has resulted in numerous changes in the delivery of health care in the State that seek to reduce the cost of health care, including reductions in the length of hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these changes, care is being provided in a variety of settings, including the homes of individuals, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Nursing assistants play an important role in providing care in all of these settings; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987 recognized the benefit of regulating nursing assistants who work in nursing homes by establishing minimal educational requirements and requiring registration of nursing assistants who work in nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Nursing assistants who work in other settings in the State are not currently regulated; and

WHEREAS, Because of the absence of regulation, there is not a central repository for the collection of complaints and investigations of alleged disciplinary problems relating to nursing assistants; now, therefore,

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

**Article - Health Occupations**

SUBTITLE 6A. CERTIFICATION OF NURSING ASSISTANTS.

8-6A-01.

~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(B) "APPROVED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM" MEANS A COURSE OF TRAINING THAT MEETS THE BASIC NURSING ASSISTANT CURRICULUM PRESCRIBED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD.~~

~~(C) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING.~~

~~(D) "CERTIFICATE" MEANS A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE BOARD TO PRACTICE AS A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT IN THE STATE.~~

~~(E) "CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE BOARD TO PRACTICE AS A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT IN THE STATE.~~