

CHAPTER 199

(Senate Bill 773)

AN ACT concerning

Home Health Agencies - Authority of Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene - Repeal of Termination Date

FOR the purpose of repealing a certain termination date concerning certain regulatory authority of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene concerning home health agencies; and generally relating to the continuation of certain regulatory authority concerning home health agencies.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 19-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 432 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1994

Section 3

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;