

(6) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF THE INTERNET IN THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING:

(I) THE USE OF AN ON-LINE DATABASE FOR PATIENT MEDICAL HISTORY; AND

(II) PROCESSING PAYMENT AND INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS ON-LINE; AND

[(2)] (7) providing advice and counsel to the Chief on such other matters as the Chief may request.

(B) (1) THE BOARD SHALL CREATE AN ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING ITS ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL PRESENT ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

Approved May 27, 1999.

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**CHAPTER 657**

**(House Bill 705)**

AN ACT concerning

**Hospitals and ~~Freestanding Ambulatory Care~~ Ambulatory Surgical Facilities - Quality of Care and Performance Act**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Health Care Access and Cost Commission to develop a system to comparatively evaluate hospital and ~~freestanding ambulatory care surgical~~ facility quality of care outcomes and performance measurements on an objective basis and to consider certain factors when developing the measurements; authorizing the Commission to disseminate the findings of performance measurements to consumers, hospitals, ~~freestanding ambulatory care surgical~~ facilities, and certain interested parties; authorizing the Commission to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Commission to consider certain performance measurements of ~~certain entities~~ and to evaluate the desirability and feasibility of developing a certain consumer clearing house; requiring a certain report by a certain date; allowing the Commission to contract with a private entity to implement the system required to be established by this Act; requiring the Commission to consult with certain entities and interested parties in performing its duties under this Act; defining a certain term; making stylistic and technical changes; and generally relating to hospital and ~~freestanding ambulatory care surgical~~ facility quality of care and performance evaluation and reports.