

(1) Is not inconsistent with the State health plan or any institution-specific plan;

(2) Will result in the delivery of more efficient and effective hospital services; and

(3) Is in the public interest.

(b) Notwithstanding the fact that a merger or consolidation or the joint ownership and operation of major medical equipment may limit free economic competition, a hospital may engage in a merger or consolidation or the joint ownership of major medical equipment that has been approved by the Commission under this section.

~~19-131. RESERVED~~

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~~(A) THERE IS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LONG TERM CARE IN THE COMMISSION.~~

~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO ADVISE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON THE DELIVERY OF LONG TERM CARE IN MARYLAND'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.~~

~~(C) (1) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF NINE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.~~

~~(2) OF THE NINE MEMBERS:~~

~~(I) THREE SHALL REPRESENT ENTITIES PROVIDING LONG TERM CARE, AT LEAST TWO OF WHICH SHALL REPRESENT COMPREHENSIVE CARE FACILITIES;~~

~~(II) ONE SHALL REPRESENT AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY;~~

~~(III) ONE SHALL BE A REGISTERED NURSE WITH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE;~~

~~(IV) ONE SHALL BE A LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE;~~

~~(V) ONE SHALL REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING;~~

~~(VI) ONE SHALL REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE; AND~~

~~(VII) ONE SHALL BE A PUBLIC MEMBER.~~

~~(D) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.~~

~~(2) THE COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS MEETINGS.~~