

certain maternal deaths; authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to contract and consult with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty; authorizing the Secretary to provide certain vital records regarding certain maternal deaths; requiring certain health care providers and facilities to report certain maternal deaths to the Maternal Mortality Review Program; requiring that certain records be kept confidential; providing a specified immunity in certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary to make certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; defining certain terms; declaring the findings of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Program.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 13-1001 through 13-1007, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 10. Maternal Mortality Review Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 10. MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW PROGRAM.

13-1001.

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

(B) "MATERNAL DEATH" MEANS THE DEATH OF A WOMAN DURING PREGNANCY OR WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE WOMAN CEASES TO BE PREGNANT.

(C) "FACULTY" MEANS THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY IN THE STATE.

(D) "MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE" MEANS THE MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY THAT IS A MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE, AS DEFINED UNDER § 14-501 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

13-1002.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) MATERNAL DEATHS ARE A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN AND HAVE A TREMENDOUS FAMILY AND SOCIETAL IMPACT;

(2) MATERNAL DEATHS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERESTIMATED AND INADEQUATELY DOCUMENTED, PREVENTING EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE CAUSES OF DEATH;