

**CHAPTER 152**  
**(House Bill 770)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Care Providers - Do Not Resuscitate Orders - Outpatients**

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain health care providers to withhold or withdraw treatment in accordance with an emergency medical services "do not resuscitate order" under certain circumstances; requiring certain persons to conduct certain studies about emergency medical services "do not resuscitate orders"; requiring the Attorney General to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to health care providers and "do not resuscitate orders".

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 5-608(a)

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**

5-608.

(a) (1) Certified or licensed emergency medical services personnel shall be directed by protocol to follow emergency medical services "do not resuscitate orders" pertaining to adult patients in the outpatient setting in accordance with protocols established by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in conjunction with the State Board of Physician Quality Assurance.

(2) Emergency medical services "do not resuscitate orders" may not authorize the withholding of medical interventions, or therapies deemed necessary to provide comfort care or to alleviate pain.

(3) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, OTHER THAN CERTIFIED OR LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL, MAY PROVIDE, WITHHOLD, OR WITHDRAW TREATMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES "DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER" DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SEES EITHER THE ORDER OR A VALID, LEGIBLE, AND PATIENT IDENTIFYING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES "DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER" IN BRACELET FORM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That: