

(1997 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

19-303.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION.

(3) "COMMUNITY BENEFIT" MEANS AN ACTIVITY THAT IS INTENDED TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES PRIMARILY THROUGH DISEASE PREVENTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH STATUS, INCLUDING:

(I) HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO VULNERABLE OR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS SUCH AS MEDICAID, MEDICARE, OR MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM ENROLLEES;

(II) FINANCIAL OR IN KIND SUPPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS;

(III) DONATIONS OF FUNDS, PROPERTY, OR OTHER RESOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A COMMUNITY PRIORITY;

(IV) HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT ACTIVITIES; AND

(V) HEALTH EDUCATION, SCREENING, AND PREVENTION SERVICES.

(4) "COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT" MEANS THE PROCESS BY WHICH UNMET COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES ARE IDENTIFIED.

(B) IN IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE NEEDS, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL:

(1) SHALL CONSIDER, IF AVAILABLE, THE MOST RECENT COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE NONPROFIT HOSPITAL IS LOCATED;

(2) MAY CONSULT WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND

(3) MAY CONSULT WITH ANY APPROPRIATE PERSON THAT CAN ASSIST THE HOSPITAL IN IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS.

(C) (1) EACH NONPROFIT HOSPITAL SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT TO THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION DETAILING THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE HOSPITAL DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR.