

feasibility of developing a system for reducing preventable adverse medical events; providing for the items the Commission shall review in conducting the study; ~~to develop a system for reducing preventable adverse medical events;~~ and requiring the Commission to report make certain reports, on or before ~~a certain date~~ certain dates, to certain committees of the General Assembly on the Commission's recommendations for implementing the provisions of this Act; and generally relating to preventing adverse medical events.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General
Section 19-139
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Recent studies have indicated that medical errors may result in 44,000 to 98,000 deaths in United States hospitals annually; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Deaths from errors in the prescription and administration of medications may claim as many as 7,000 lives annually, exceeding the number of deaths attributed annually to workplace injuries; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Medically induced injuries and death not only represent a major public health problem — resulting not only in death, permanent disability, and unnecessary suffering — but also in economic costs and a loss of trust in the medical profession; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Although medical errors may be more easily detected in hospitals, they occur in other health care settings as well; and~~

~~WHEREAS, A 1999 report of the Committee on Quality Health Care in America, sponsored by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, stated that "the health care delivery system is rapidly evolving and undergoing substantial redesign, which may introduce improvements, but also new hazards"; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The report's recommendations included the establishment of a mandatory reporting system for adverse medical events, the encouragement of voluntary reporting efforts, modifications of legal and confidentiality requirements to promote reporting and analysis, and the development of performance standards by health care organizations and health care professionals to focus greater attention on patient safety; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Many of the recommendations and methods of implementation offered by the report have critical significance for the delivery of health care in the State of Maryland; now, therefore,~~

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