

WHEREAS, Because 95 percent of all immunizations are administered by private health care providers in this State, there are no public records to ensure that the citizens of the State are being properly immunized; and

WHEREAS, It is important for immunization records to be complete so that children will not be over-immunized or under-immunized because of incomplete health care records; and

WHEREAS, Over-immunization and under-immunization are medically undesirable and costly; and

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that \$29 in medical costs are saved for every \$1 spent on immunizations; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the General Assembly directed the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to utilize federal government initiatives or programs to develop a State plan to establish a system for tracking all childhood immunizations administered to children between birth and 6 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a central computerized immunization registry will be beneficial to the citizens of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health - General

18-109.

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

(2) "AUTHORIZED USER" MEANS:

- (I) A CHILD CARE FACILITY;
- (II) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER;
- (III) A HEALTH INSURER;
- (IV) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;
- (V) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING;
- (VI) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT;
- (VII) A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY;
- (VIII) A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION;
- (IX) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;
- (X) A PATIENT;
- (XI) A SCHOOL;