

- (i) evaluating needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protection;
- (ii) considering training and education requirements and increased use of personal protective equipment;
- (iii) compiling a list of existing needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protection to assist employers in complying with the requirement of a bloodborne pathogen standard;
- (iv) considering exceptions to the standard;
- (v) considering the cost, cost benefit analysis, and potential offsetting savings associated with a bloodborne pathogen standard, and the availability of needleless systems;
- (vi) considering the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines on universal precautions; and
- (vii) considering the relevant requirements or recommendations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

(2) The Department shall perform the duties specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection in consultation with:

- (i) the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration;
- (ii) the Maryland Hospital Association;
- (iii) the Maryland Nurses Association;
- (iv) the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;
- (v) the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland;
- (vi) the Service Employees International Union of Maryland;
- (vii) the Professional Staff Nurses Association of Maryland; and
- (viii) the Maryland State Dental Association.

(c) The Department shall complete the study and submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and the Secretary a report on the proposed or recommended regulations on or before January 1, 2000.

(d) This section may be cited as the "Health Care Workers' Safety Act".  
[5-1001.] 5-308.1.

(a) The Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall adopt regulations to implement the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard [as established] ADOPTED by the federal Occupational Safety