Review Program; and generally relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
    Chapter 74 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000
    Section 2

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly found in 2000 that maternal deaths were a serious public health concern that had a tremendous family and societal impact and that maternal deaths were significantly underestimated and inadequately documented, preventing efforts to identify and reduce or eliminate the causes of death; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly also found in 2000 that the State did not have a process for the confidential identification, investigation, or dissemination of findings regarding maternal deaths and found a need to establish a maternal mortality review program to review maternal deaths and to develop strategies for the prevention of maternal deaths; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland enacted the Maternal Mortality Review Program on April 25, 2000; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene established the Program to review maternal deaths and to develop strategies for the prevention of maternal deaths in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Program has successfully fulfilled its objectives; and

WHEREAS, Maternal deaths are still a serious public health concern, however, and there is still a need for the Program to continue in existence in order to review maternal deaths and develop strategies for the prevention of maternal deaths; now, therefore,

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

Chapter 74 of the Acts of 2000

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2000. [It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2003.

Approved May 13, 2003.