

CHAPTER 361

(House Bill 361)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Biological Agents Registry Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for the registration of biological agents; requiring the Department to administer the program; providing for the contents of the biological agents registry; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring certain persons to report certain information to the Department for inclusion in the biological agents registry; providing for an exemption for certain biological agents and laboratories from inclusion in the biological agents registry; providing that certain information contained within the biological agents registry shall be confidential and is not subject to the public information law; providing for certain penalties; and generally relating to the establishment of a biological agents registry in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 17-601 through 17-605, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Biological Agents Registry Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 6. BIOLOGICAL AGENTS REGISTRY PROGRAM.

17-601.

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

(B) "BIOLOGICAL AGENT" MEANS:

(1) ANY SELECT AGENT THAT IS A MICROORGANISM, VIRUS, BACTERIUM, FUNGUS, RICKETTSIA, OR TOXIN LISTED IN TITLE 42, PART 72, APPENDIX A OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS;

(2) ANY GENETICALLY MODIFIED MICROORGANISMS OR GENETIC ELEMENTS FROM AN ORGANISM LISTED IN TITLE 42, PART 72, APPENDIX A OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, SHOWN TO PRODUCE OR ENCODE FOR A FACTOR ASSOCIATED WITH A DISEASE; OR