

~~the termination of a portion of this Act; requiring health care facilities to implement a certain pain management training program developed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Department to develop the pain management program; and generally relating to pain management and a State Advisory Council on Pain Management health care facilities.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General
Section 19-342 and 19-343
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Health - General
Section 19-353; and 13-601 through 13-605, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 16. Advisory Council on Pain Management"; and 19-3C-01 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3C. Pain Management"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Estimates indicate that as many as 34 million people nationwide suffer from chronic intractable pain; and

WHEREAS, Experts acknowledge that patients may be victims of inadequate pain management as their needs are not met with proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, Not only is chronic intractable pain a life debilitating condition, it is a costly epidemic facing our nation; and

WHEREAS, The field of medicine is constantly evolving, and continuing education in pain management is essential to ensure a patient is receiving the best care possible; and

WHEREAS, State law and policy could play a role in facilitating effective pain management, thus serving the needs of the citizens of the State; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health - General

19-342.

(A) Each administrator of a hospital is responsible for making available to each patient in the hospital a copy of the patient's bill of rights that the hospital adopts under the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals' guidelines.