

Approved May 16, 2002.

CHAPTER 441

(Senate Bill 3)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Safe Haven Act

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing procedures for the relinquishment of certain newborns; establishing immunity for certain persons under this Act; establishing procedures for hospitals that accept a relinquished newborn; establishing procedures for a nonrelinquishing natural parent to retain parental rights; establishing procedures for a natural parent to revoke the intent to relinquish a newborn; establishing procedures for a court to make certain determinations regarding a relinquished newborn~~ providing immunity from civil liability and criminal prosecution for certain persons who leave an unharmed newborn with a certain person under certain circumstances; requiring the approval of a certain person to leave a newborn under certain circumstances; requiring certain persons who accept a newborn to take certain actions within a certain time; providing immunity from civil liability and criminal prosecution for certain persons, hospitals, and other facilities under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to adopt certain regulations; ~~defining certain terms;~~ providing that the provisions of this Act are severable; and generally relating to ~~relinquishment~~ safe abandonment of a newborn.

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article - Family Law~~

~~Section 5-7B-01 through 5-7B-04, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 7B- Safe Havens for Newborns"~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)~~

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 5-641

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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