

(C) A PERSON OR ENTITY TO WHOM SPECIFIED INFORMATION HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE REGISTRY AS AUTHORIZED BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER ~~§ 17-602(C)(4)~~ § 17-602(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT RELEASE THE INFORMATION UNLESS THE RELEASE IS APPROVED BY THE BIOLOGICAL AGENTS REGISTRY PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall adopt regulations to implement § 17-602(c)(4) of the Health - General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, in consultation with local jurisdictions, and shall consider current standards and security measures followed by local officials and emergency response agencies when obtaining information about facilities within their jurisdictions that contain nuclear and chemically hazardous materials.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Association of Counties, the Maryland Municipal League, and local jurisdictions, shall adopt regulations to implement § 17-602(c)(5)(iii) of the Health - General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, that establish procedures for identifying, distributing, and maintaining the confidentiality of secure information contained in the Biological Agents Registry.

~~SECTION 2. 4.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2004.

Approved April 13, 2004.

CHAPTER 60

(House Bill 669)

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance - HIPAA - Maryland Health Insurance Plan - Alternative Mechanism

FOR the purpose of making the Maryland Health Insurance Plan the alternative to the standard coverage for eligible individuals under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as required by certain provisions of law; defining certain terms; *repealing certain definitions*; deleting certain provisions made unnecessary under the alternative mechanism; clarifying certain continuation of coverage provisions applying to certain individuals; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Insurance Plan as an alternative to the standard coverage required under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,