

SECTION 3. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall initially submit emergency regulations to begin implementation of the program developed under § 15-141 of the Health - General Article as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 4. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That unless further action is taken by the General Assembly, the program developed under § 15-141 of the Health - General Article as enacted by this Act shall terminate at the end of May 31, 2008.

SECTION 3. 5. 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2004.

Enacted January 11, 2005.

CHAPTER 5

(House Bill 2)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Patients' Access to Quality Health Care Act of 2004

FOR the purpose of requiring a health care provider who attests in certain certificates or testifies in relation to certain proceedings concerning health care malpractice to meet certain qualifications; ~~providing for the termination of certain functions of the Health Claims Arbitration Office on or after a certain date; requiring a person who has a claim for a medical injury against a health care provider after a certain date to file a complaint in a court as provided in the Maryland Rules; providing for the transfer of certain functions of the Office to the clerks of the court and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on or after a certain date; providing for certain procedures for a claim or action for a medical injury against a health care provider filed after a certain date; requiring a claimant or plaintiff to file certain certificates for each defendant in a health care malpractice claim or action under certain circumstances; requiring that an arbitration panel or trier of fact itemize certain health care malpractice awards or verdicts in a certain manner; requiring certain alternative dispute resolution of certain health care malpractice actions under certain circumstances; authorizing the Court of Appeals to adopt rules relating to certain alternative dispute resolution; providing for certain alternative dispute resolution procedures and costs; providing for immunity from suit for individuals who conduct alternative dispute resolution under certain circumstances; requiring parties to file certain supplemental certificates of qualified experts in a health care malpractice action under certain circumstances; requiring certain procedures concerning the supplemental certificates; requiring providing that a health care malpractice action be dismissed or liability in the action may be adjudicated in a certain manner if certain parties fail to file a certain supplemental certificate under certain circumstances; authorizing an arbitration panel chairman or court to make a certain finding as to whether a certain claim or action was brought or~~