

circumstances; providing that veteran practitioners are held to the same disciplinary procedures and standard of care as certified respiratory care practitioners; defining certain terms; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the practice of respiratory care and ~~hospital-based veterans' hiring~~ veteran's internship programs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 14-507

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The University of Maryland Medical System Veterans' Hiring Program offers employment in respiratory care to qualified veterans willing to build on the talents, abilities, and education gained in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, The University of Maryland Medical System Veterans' Hiring Program has been cited as a model program in testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees of the United States Congress, has received an award from the Vietnam Veterans of America, and enjoys the support of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Recently adopted regulations for certification of respiratory care practitioners under COMAR 10.32.11 do not provide for the recognition of an individual's training in the military, when that training is in the field of respiratory care, but would force the University of Maryland Medical System Veterans' Hiring Program out of existence with enforcement to commence May 11, 1992; and

WHEREAS, It has been shown that the University of Maryland Medical System Veterans' Hiring Program provides valuable care without jeopardy to patients, by ensuring substantial competency of the veterans who practice under supervision in the Program; now, therefore,

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

Article – Health Occupations

14-507.

(a) The Board shall:

(1) Define, for the purpose of this section, the terms "respiratory care practitioner" and "practice respiratory care";

(2) Adopt regulations in consultation with affected health providers concerning qualifications, training, certification, monitoring of, and enforcement requirements for a respiratory care practitioner;