

# SENATE BILL 442

P1

6lr2131  
CF HB 91

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By: **Senators Manno, Guzzone, Lee, Madaleno, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – National Healthcare Decisions**  
3 **Day**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as National  
5 Healthcare Decisions Day; and generally relating to National Healthcare Decisions  
6 Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–405 through 7–416, respectively

10 to be Section 7–406 through 7–417, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–405

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Advance directives help people indicate the kind of care they want  
20 during a medical crisis or at the end of life; and

21 WHEREAS, Advance directives support individuals and families in receiving  
22 humane, personalized health care by respecting an individual’s wishes and values; and

23 WHEREAS, The use of advance directives often leads to reduced health care costs  
24 by avoiding unwanted and unnecessary health care expenses; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Advance directive forms are free, legal, readily available, and  
2 straightforward; and

3 WHEREAS, Advance directive forms can be obtained online and from the State,  
4 health care facilities, and faith-based institutions; and

5 WHEREAS, Only about 30% of Marylanders have advance directives; and

6 WHEREAS, The rate of the use of advance directives is lower among those in  
7 minority groups, and this is now recognized as a minority health disparity; and

8 WHEREAS, Educational and public information programs can help increase the rate  
9 of use of advance directives; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
11 That Section(s) 7-405 through 7-416, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-406 through 7-417,  
13 respectively.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
15 as follows:

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 **7-405.**

18 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM APRIL 16 AS NATIONAL**  
19 **HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY.**

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2016.