

Chapter 388

(Senate Bill 442)

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Commemorative Days – National Healthcare Decisions Day

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

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–405 through 7–416, respectively
to be Section 7–406 through 7–417, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–405
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – General Provisions

7-405.

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.