

Chapter 490

(Senate Bill 574)

AN ACT concerning

Public Health – Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health to establish a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup; providing for the membership of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to develop a certain public awareness campaign, identify, review, and evaluate certain resources, and identify cost-effective methods for disseminating certain information; requiring the Workgroup to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Sepsis is a serious and often fatal clinical syndrome, resulting from infection; and

WHEREAS, Sepsis is a leading cause of deaths in hospitals and a leading cause of preventable deaths in children; and

WHEREAS, Sepsis affects more than 1 million Americans each year at an annual cost of over \$20 billion; and

WHEREAS, Early recognition and intensive treatment are critical to decreasing morbidity and mortality from sepsis; and

WHEREAS, Public education about sepsis symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and preventive measures is lacking because sepsis is a clinical syndrome with many causes that requires diagnosis by a physician; and

WHEREAS, Many different types of infections can lead to sepsis and a majority of patients develop infections leading to sepsis outside a hospital; and

WHEREAS, Maryland needs a coordinated and comprehensive campaign to educate the public on the need to prevent infections, the symptoms of sepsis, and the need for immediate treatment if sepsis is suspected or for an infection that is not improving or is getting worse; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) (1) The Secretary of Health shall establish a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

(2) The Workgroup shall include the following members:

- (i) two individuals who have had sepsis or have a family member who has had sepsis;
- (ii) two representatives of hospitals;
- (iii) one licensed emergency medicine physician;
- (iv) one licensed primary care physician;
- (v) one licensed pediatrician;
- (vi) one representative of a local health department;
- (vii) one representative of the Maryland Patient Safety Center;
- (viii) one representative of the Maryland Nurses Association;
- (ix) one representative from the Maryland State Department of Education;
- (x) one representative from the Maryland Department of Health;
- (xi) one infection control professional; and
- (xii) one individual with expertise in public communication.

(b) The Workgroup shall:

- (1) develop a public awareness campaign on sepsis awareness and prevention that includes:
 - (i) a definition of sepsis;
 - (ii) the risks associated with sepsis;
 - (iii) how sepsis may occur;
 - (iv) the signs and symptoms of sepsis;
 - (v) what to do if symptoms of sepsis are present; and
 - (vi) methods for prevention of sepsis;

(2) identify, review, and evaluate resources that could be used to educate the public on sepsis; and

(3) identify cost-effective methods for disseminating information to the public about sepsis.

(c) On or before December 1, 2018, the Workgroup shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the public awareness campaign developed under subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.