
By: Delegates Cryor, Beck, Bozman, Dembrow, DeCarlo, Faulkner, Finifter, Heller, Kopp, Leopold, Mossburg, Stocksdale, Shriver, Turner, and Walkup

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals - Patient's Bill of Rights - Visitation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a hospital to include in its patient's bill of rights a provision
4 allowing certain patients to determine those individuals who may be allowed to visit
5 the patient under certain circumstances; and defining a certain term.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Health - General
8 Section 19-342
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Health - General**

14 19-342.

15 (A) Each administrator of a hospital is responsible for making available to each
16 patient in the hospital a copy of the patient's bill of rights that the hospital adopts under
17 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals' guidelines.

18 (B) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "TERMINAL PATIENT" MEANS A PATIENT WHO
19 HAS AN INCURABLE CONDITION CAUSED BY INJURY, DISEASE, OR ILLNESS WHICH,
20 TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAINTY, MAKES DEATH IMMINENT
21 AND FROM WHICH, DESPITE THE APPLICATION OF LIFE-SUSTAINING PROCEDURES,
22 THERE CAN BE NO RECOVERY.

23 (2) EACH HOSPITAL SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS
24 ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION A PROVISION
25 THAT ALLOWS A TERMINAL PATIENT TO DETERMINE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO
26 MAY BE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE PATIENT.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 1997.