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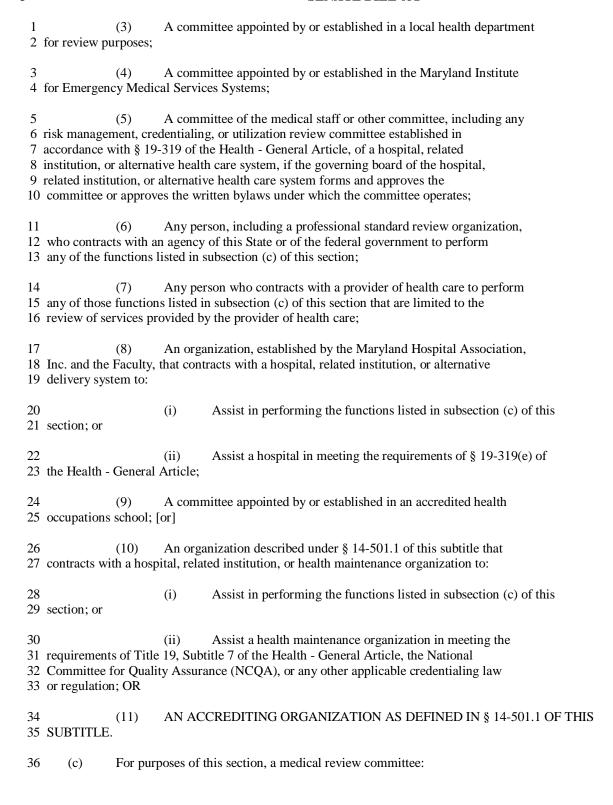
1998 Regular Session 8lr2246

| By: Senator Hollinger |
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| ntroduced and read first time: February 6, 1998 |
| Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs |
| Committee Report: Favorable with amendments |
| enate action: Adopted |
| Read second time: March 20, 1998 |
| CHAPTER |
| 1 AN ACT concerning |
| 2 Health Occupations - Medical Review Committees - Confidential Information |
| 4 FOR the purpose of adding accreditation organizations to the list of organizations |
| 5 that are prohibited from obtaining releasing certain confidential information |
| 6 under certain circumstances; prohibiting the release of certain confidential |
| 7 information to certain organizations; defining certain terms; and generally |
| 8 relating to the confidential information of medical review committees. |
| 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, |
| 10 Article - Health Occupations |
| 11 Section 14-501 |
| 12 Annotated Code of Maryland |
| 13 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement) |
| 14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, |
| 15 Article - Health Occupations |
| 16 Section 14-501.1 |
| 17 Annotated Code of Maryland |
| 18 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement) |

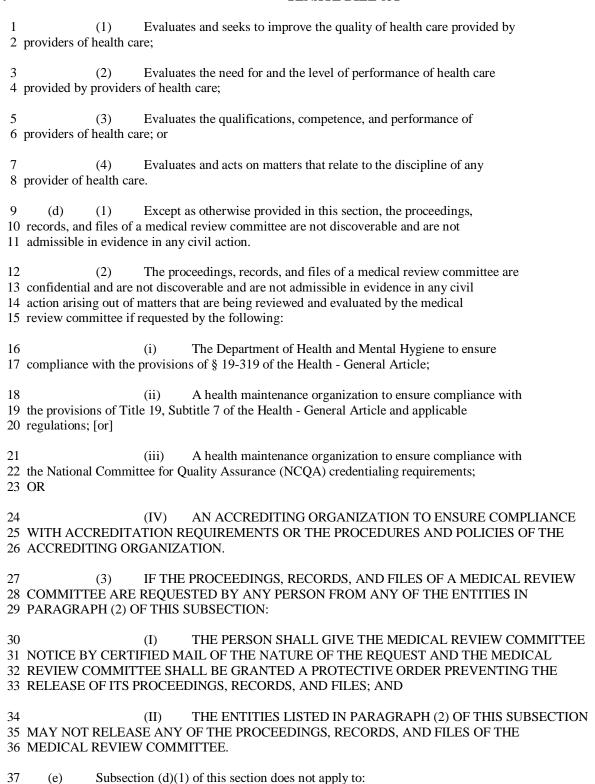
19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

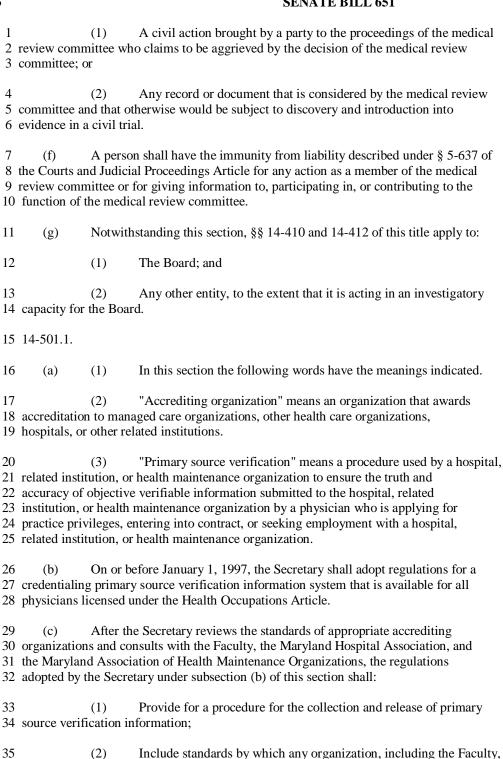
1 **Article - Health Occupations** 2 14-501. 3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated. "Alternative health care system" means a system of health care 4 (2) delivery other than a hospital or related institution. "Alternative health care system" includes: 6 (ii) 7 1. A health maintenance organization; 8 2. A preferred provider organization; 9 3. An independent practice association; 10 4. A community health center that is a nonprofit, freestanding ambulatory health care provider governed by a voluntary board of directors and that provides primary health care services to the medically indigent; or 13 5. Any other health care delivery system that utilizes a 14 medical review committee. "Medical review committee" means a committee or board that: 15 (3) 16 (i) Is within one of the categories described in subsection (b) of this 17 section; and Performs [any of] FUNCTIONS THAT INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE 18 19 OF the functions listed in subsection (c) of this section. 20 "Provider of health care" means any person who is licensed by (i) 21 law to provide health care to individuals. 22 "Provider of health care" does not include any nursing (ii) 23 institution that is conducted by and for those who rely on treatment by spiritual 24 means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a 25 recognized church or religious denomination. 26 "The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems" 27 means the State agency described in § 13-503 of the Education Article. For purposes of this section, a medical review committee is: 28 (b) 29 A regulatory board or agency established by State or federal law to 30 license, certify, or discipline any provider of health care; A committee of the Faculty or any of its component societies or a 32 committee of any other professional society or association composed of providers of 33 health care;

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36 may qualify to perform primary source verification; and

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- 1 (3) Provide for the monitoring by the Secretary of any organization that 2 qualifies to administer primary source verification.
- 3 (d) The Secretary may authorize hospitals, related institutions, or health
- 4 maintenance organizations to rely on primary source verification information
- 5 provided by an organization qualified to perform primary source verification in
- 6 accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary under this section instead of
- 7 requiring a hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization to use its
- 8 own primary source verification procedure to test the truth and accuracy of
- 9 information submitted.
- 10 (e) This section does not prohibit a hospital, related institution, or health
- 11 maintenance organization from using its own primary source verification procedure.
- 12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 13 October 1, 1998.