
By: **Delegates McHale and Hammen**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2001

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Patients' Safety Act of 2001**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, to develop a
4 system for reducing preventable adverse medical events; and requiring the
5 Commission to report, on or before a certain date, to certain committees of the
6 General Assembly on the Commission's recommendations for implementing the
7 provisions of this Act.

8 BY adding to
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 19-139
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Recent studies have indicated that medical errors may result in
15 44,000 to 98,000 deaths in United States hospitals annually; and

16 WHEREAS, Deaths from errors in the prescription and administration of
17 medications may claim as many as 7,000 lives annually, exceeding the number of
18 deaths attributed annually to workplace injuries; and

19 WHEREAS, Medically induced injuries and death not only represent a major
20 public health problem -- resulting not only in death, permanent disability, and
21 unnecessary suffering -- but also in economic costs and a loss of trust in the medical
22 profession; and

23 WHEREAS, Although medical errors may be more easily detected in hospitals,
24 they occur in other health care settings as well; and

25 WHEREAS, A 1999 report of the Committee on Quality Health Care in America,
26 sponsored by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, stated that
27 "the health care delivery system is rapidly evolving and undergoing substantial
28 redesign, which may introduce improvements, but also new hazards"; and

1 WHEREAS, The report's recommendations included the establishment of a
2 mandatory reporting system for adverse medical events, the encouragement of
3 voluntary reporting efforts, modifications of legal and confidentiality requirements to
4 promote reporting and analysis, and the development of performance standards by
5 health care organizations and health care professionals to focus greater attention on
6 patient safety; and

7 WHEREAS, Many of the recommendations and methods of implementation
8 offered by the report have critical significance for the delivery of health care in the
9 State of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

12 **Article - Health - General**

13 19-139.

14 THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR REDUCING THE INCIDENCES
15 OF PREVENTABLE ADVERSE MEDICAL EVENTS IN THE STATE.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
17 2001, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall report to the Governor and,
18 subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the House Economic Matters and
19 House Environmental Matters committees, and the Senate Finance Committee on the
20 Commission's recommendations for implementing the provisions of this Act by
21 legislation or regulation.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2001.