
By: **Delegate Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health - Reporting of Infectious Diseases - Anthrax**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that anthrax is an infectious disease for purposes of a
4 requirement that a physician submit a certain report to a certain health officer
5 if the physician is treating a patient that the physician suspects has an
6 infectious or contagious disease that endangers the public; and generally
7 relating to reports of infectious and contagious diseases.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 18-201
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Health - General**

16 18-201.

17 (A) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, ANTHRAX IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE
18 THAT ENDANGERS PUBLIC HEALTH.

19 [(a)] (B) A physician with reason to suspect that a patient under the
20 physician's care has an infectious or contagious disease except human
21 immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome that endangers
22 public health shall submit immediately a report to the health officer for the county
23 where the physician cares for that patient.

24 [(b)] (C) The report shall:

25 (1) Be on the form that the Secretary provides;

26 (2) Identify the disease or suspected disease;

1 (3) State the name, age, race, sex, and residence address of the patient;

2 and

3 (4) Be signed by the physician.

4 [(c)] (D) (1) All physician reports required under this section are:

5 (i) Confidential;

6 (ii) Not open to public inspection; and

7 (iii) Subject to subpoena or discovery in any criminal or civil
8 proceeding only pursuant to a court order sealing the court record.

9 (2) This subsection does not apply to a disclosure by the Secretary to
10 another governmental agency performing its lawful duties as authorized by an act of
11 the Maryland General Assembly or the United States Congress where the Secretary
12 determines that:

13 (i) The agency to whom the information is disclosed will maintain
14 the confidentiality of the disclosure; and

15 (ii) The disclosure is necessary to protect the public health or to
16 prevent the spread of an infectious or contagious disease.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
18 effect October 1, 2002.