SENATE BILL 550 **EMERGENCY BILL**

Unofficial Copy

2004 Regular Session (4lr2348)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Health and Government Operations --

Introduced by Senators Harris and Hollinger

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Read and Examined by Proofreaders:	
	Proofreader
Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this day of at o'clock,M.	Proofreader
day of at	President
CHAPTER	
1 AN ACT concerning	
2 Health - General - Nursing Referral Service Agencies - Licensing	
 FOR the purpose of exempting certain nursing referral service agencies and certain nurse registries from certain definitions; providing for the scope of this Act; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations; requiring the regulations to provide for the establishment of certain 	

- 7 agencies, the qualifications for licensure as certain agencies, the issuance of
- 8 certain licenses, the renewal of certain licenses, and a procedure for the
- 9 investigation of certain complaints; providing for the expiration of certain
- 10 licenses under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department of Health and
- Mental Hygiene to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke certain licenses; requiring the 11
- 12 Department to set certain fees; requiring certain individuals to be licensed
- 13 before a nursing referral service agency to obtain a license from the Department
- prior to operating certain agencies; requiring certain applicants to meet certain 14
- 15 requirements; requiring certain agencies to develop and implement certain
- 16 procedures relating to the screening of certain licensed health professionals;
- 17 requiring certain agencies to notify certain licensed health professionals and

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1	certain clients of certain complaint procedures; prohibiting certain agencies									
2	from maintaining certain relationships with certain licensed health									
3	professionals; exempting certain agencies from the payment of certain									
4	compensation; authorizing the Department to inspect certain agencies; institute									
5	a certain complaint investigation process; requiring a nursing referral service									
6	agency to apply for a certain criminal history records check or request a certain									
7	background check; establishing certain requirements for the criminal history									
8	records check and the background check; requiring the Department to adopt									
9	certain regulations; prohibiting the regulations from precluding a nursing									
10	referral service agency from operating in a certain manner; requiring the									
11	Department to issue a certain license under certain circumstances; authorizing									
12	the Department to suspend or revoke a certain license under certain									
13	circumstances; prohibiting certain individuals from operating certain agencies									
14	under certain circumstances; providing for certain penalties for certain									
15	violations; providing that the granting of a certain license does not constitute a									
16	finding of a certain fact and may not give rise to a certain presumption; defining									
17	certain terms; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to									
18	nursing referral service agencies.									
10	DX 1' 1 1' 1' 1' 1'									
	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,									
20	Article - Business Regulation									
21	Section 9-101(d)									
22 23	Annotated Code of Maryland									
23	(1998 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)									
24	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,									
25	Article - Health - General									
26	Section 19-401(c) and 19-4A-01(e)									
27	Annotated Code of Maryland									
28	(2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)									
29	BY adding to									
30	Article - Health - General									
31	Section 19-4B-01 through 19-4B-09 <u>19-4B-06</u> , inclusive, to be under the new									
32	subtitle "Subtitle 4B. Nursing Referral Service Agencies"									
33	Annotated Code of Maryland									
34	(2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)									
	GEGEVONA DE MENNA GEED DANTANE GENEDANA AGGENTANA OF									
35	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF									
36	MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:									
37	Article - Business Regulation									
38	9-101.									
39	(d) (1) "Employment agency" means a person who, for a fee:									

24 2. participates directly or indirectly in the recruitment or

obtains, offers to obtain, or attempts to obtain an alien

25 supply of an individual who resides outside of the continental United States for 26 employment in the continental United States.

(iv)

23 labor certification or immigrant visa for an individual; and

1.

22

27 (2) "Employment agency" does not include a person who merely:

28 (i) conducts a business that directly employs individuals to provide 29 part-time or temporary services to another person;

29

(2)

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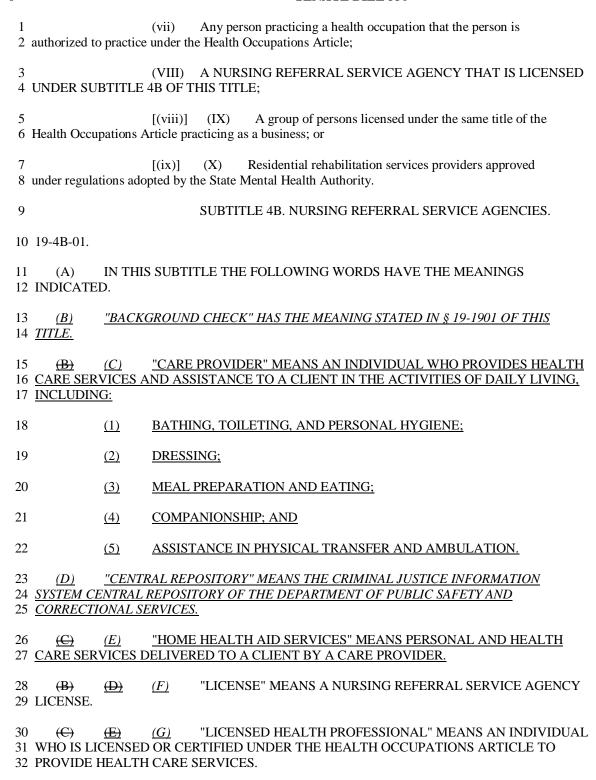
1 2 individual; [or]	(ii)	as a law	yer, directly obtains an immigrant visa for an	
3	(iii)	conducts a business that:		
4		1.	receives a fee that is paid wholly by an employer;	
5 6 employment; and		2.	does not collect money from an individual seeking	
7 8 make a contract; OR		3.	does not require an individual seeking employment to	
9 10 LICENSED UNDER	(IV) R TITLE		TES A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY THAT IS TITLE 4B OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.	
11			Article - Health - General	
12 19-401.				
13 (c) (1) "Home health care" means any of the following services that are 14 provided under the general direction of a licensed health professional practicing 15 within the scope of their practice act:				
16	(i)	Audiolo	ogy and speech pathology;	
17	(ii)	Dietary	and nutritional services;	
18	(iii)	Drug se	rvices;	
19	(iv)	Home h	ealth aid;	
20	(v)	Laborat	ory;	
21	(vi)	Medica	l social services;	
22	(vii)	Nursing	;	
23	(viii)	Occupa	tional therapy;	
24	(ix)	Physica	l therapy; OR	
25 26 supplies[; or	(x)	Provisio	on of medically necessary sickroom equipment and	
27 28 provisions of the Ma	(xi) ryland E		registry that is an employment agency under the nt Agency Act].	

However, the provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

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AS

	A NURSING REFER OF THIS TITLE; OR			SING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY THAT IS LICENSED AGENCY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE 4B			
4 5	home-based hospice c	(II) are progr	[a] A home-based hospice care program that is licensed as a ogram under the provisions of Subtitle 9 of this title.				
	(3) program if the home h from its other services	home health agency operates a hospice care program that is distinct					
9	19-4A-01.						
12	nongovernmental bus	iness of compens	employin	ice agency" means any person that is engaged in a g or contracting with individuals to provide in unrelated sick or disabled individual in the			
14	(2)	"Resider	ntial serv	ice agency" includes[:			
15 16	directly for hire as ho	(i) me healt		NY agency that employs or contracts with individuals oviders[; or			
17 18	provisions of the Mar	(ii) yland En		registry that is an employment agency under the nt Agency Act that:			
19 20	rejection, as its sole b	ousiness o	1. operation	Screens or refers individuals for a client's selection or and			
21			2.	Does not itself provide any home health care service].			
22	(3)	"Resider	ntial serv	ice agency" does not include:			
23 24	Subtitle 4 of this title	(i) ;	A home	health agency that is licensed under the provisions of			
25 26	the provisions of Sub	(ii) title 4 of		n required to be licensed as a home health agency under			
27 28	provisions of Subtitle	(iii) 9 of this		-based hospice care program that is licensed under the			
29 30	this title;	(iv)	A hospit	tal that is licensed under the provisions of Subtitle 3 of			
31 32	Subtitle 3 of this title	(v) ;	A relate	d institution that is licensed under the provisions of			
33 34	Care Program;	(vi)	Personal	care providers under the Medical Assistance Personal			



- 1 (D) "NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY" MEANS ONE OR MORE (F) (H)2 INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF SCREENING AND REFERRING. 3 DIRECTLY OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT MAY 4 INCLUDE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OR 5 CARE PROVIDERS TO CLIENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SKILLED OR CERTIFIED 6 NURSING SERVICES, HOME HEALTH AID SERVICES, OR OTHER HOME HEALTH CARE 7 SERVICES IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE CLIENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE CLIENT. "PRIVATE AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19-1901 OF THIS 8 9 TITLE. 10 19-4B-02. 11 THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT LIMIT THE RIGHT OF ANY PERSON WHO HOLDS A 12 LICENSE UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO ACT AS AUTHORIZED BY THAT LICENSE. 13 19-4B-03. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT SET STANDARDS 14 (A) 15 FOR THE CARE, TREATMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND COMFORT OF 16 INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE SERVICES THROUGH A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE 17 AGENCY. (B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL PROVIDE FOR: 18 19 (1)THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCIES: (2)THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AS A NURSING REFERRAL 20 21 SERVICE AGENCY; 22 THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES TO NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE (3)23 AGENCIES: 24 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION. THE 25 RENEWAL OF LICENSES FOR NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCIES; AND A PROCEDURE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS 26 27 REGARDING NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCIES OR THE LICENSED HEALTH 28 PROFESSIONALS SCREENED AND REFERRED BY NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE 29 AGENCIES. 30 A LICENSE EXPIRES ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ITS EFFECTIVE (C) (1) 31 DATE UNLESS: 32 (I) THE DEPARTMENT SUSPENDS OR REVOKES THE LICENSE: OR 33 (II)THE LICENSE IS RENEWED FOR A 3-YEAR TERM AS PROVIDED 34 IN THIS SECTION.
- 35 (2) BEFORE A LICENSE EXPIRES, A LICENSE MAY BE RENEWED FOR AN 36 ADDITIONAL 3-YEAR TERM IF THE APPLICANT:

1	1 (I)	OTHERWISE IS ENTITLED TO A LICENSE;
2 3	2 (II) 3 REGULATION; AND	PAYS TO THE SECRETARY THE RENEWAL FEE SET BY
4 5	4 (III) 5 THE FORM THAT THE SECI	SUBMITS TO THE SECRETARY A RENEWAL APPLICATION ON RETARY REQUIRES.
		ENT MAY ISSUE, DENY, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE A NURSING CY LICENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS BTITLE.
11	0 AND RENEWAL OF LICENS 1 NOT TO EXCEED THE ADM	ENT SHALL SET REASONABLE FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE SES OR OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT MINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE LICENSURE OF NURSING WICLES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
13	3 19 4B 04.	
14 15		L BE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE EFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY.
16	6 19 4B 05.	
17	7 TO QUALIFY FOR A LIC	CENSE, AN APPLICANT:
18 19		PROVE THAT THE NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY ATE SCREENING AND REFERRAL SERVICES;
20 21	20 (2) SHALL 21 DEPARTMENT ADOPTS; A	MEET ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT THE ND
22 23	22 (3) MAY No 23 1 OF THIS TITLE FOR CERT	OT BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBTITLE STRICK OF NEED.
24	24 19 4B 06.	
26 27	26 IMPLEMENT A PROCEDUR 27 INCLUDES AN INTERVIEW	FERRAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL DEVELOP AND E TO SCREEN LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS THAT OF THE LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND CENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S:
29	29 (1) CRIMIN	AL BACKGROUND CHECK;
30 31	` /	NT LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION UNDER THE HEALTH O PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES;
32	32 (3) BASIC I	HEALTH STATUS;
33	33 (4) REFERI	ENCES;

- 1 (5) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY; AND
- 2 COMPLETION OF FEDERAL I 9 FORMS.
- 3 (B) A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL NOTIFY LICENSED
- 4 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND CLIENTS OF THE APPROPRIATE COMPLAINT PROCESS
- 5 AND THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINT HOTLINE.
- 6 (C) A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY MAY NOT MAINTAIN AN
- 7 EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS THAT
- 8 IT SCREENS AND REFERS TO CLIENTS.
- 9 (D) A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
- 10 PAYING COMPENSATION FOR THE SERVICES RENDERED BY A LICENSED HEALTH
- 11 PROFESSIONAL THAT IT SCREENS AND REFERS TO CLIENTS.
- 12 19 4B 07.
- 13 THE DEPARTMENT MAY INSPECT A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY TO
- 14 DETERMINE WHETHER THE NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY IS MEETING THE
- 15 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 16 19-4B-08.
- 17 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT OPERATE, ATTEMPT TO OPERATE, OR HOLD
- 18 ONE'S SELF OUT AS OPERATING A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY UNLESS
- 19 THE INDIVIDUAL IS LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
- 20 (B) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
- 21 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000
- 22 FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE AND NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT
- 23 OFFENSE.
- 24 19-4B-09.
- 25 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OPERATES A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY
- 26 IN VIOLATION OF THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF
- 27 A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING
- 28 \$1,000.
- 29 (B) EACH DAY A VIOLATION IS CONTINUED AFTER THE FIRST CONVICTION IS
- 30 A SEPARATE OFFENSE.
- 31 (A) (1) A NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY MAY RECEIVE A FEE OR
- 32 OTHER COMPENSATION FOR PROVIDING ITS SERVICES.
- 33 (2) A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT MAY PROVIDE THAT A NURSING
- 34 REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING ANY PART OF THE
- 35 COMPENSATION TO THE LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OR CARE

	TO CLIENTS.	THE NU	KSING F	REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY SCREENS OR REFERS
3	(3) ADMINISTRATIVE			FERRAL SERVICE AGENCY MAY PROVIDE
5	(B) A NURS	SING RE	FERRAL	SERVICE AGENCY SHALL:
6 7	(1) AS A NURSING REI			ENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO OPERATING E AGENCY;
8 9	(2) HEALTH PROFESSI			IMPLEMENT A PROCEDURE TO SCREEN LICENSED RE PROVIDERS THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:
10		<u>(I)</u>	<u>IN ACC</u>	ORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION:
11			<u>1.</u>	A STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK; OR
12			<u>2.</u>	A PRIVATE AGENCY BACKGROUND CHECK;
13 14	UNDER THE HEAL	(II) TH OCC		CATION OF CURRENT LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION ONS ARTICLE;
15 16	SCREENING;	(III)	A BASI	C HEALTH SCREENING, INCLUDING A TUBERCULOSIS
17		(IV)	VERIFI	CATION OF REFERENCES;
18		<u>(V)</u>	VERIFI	CATION OF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY;
19		<u>(VI)</u>	COMPL	ETION OF 1-9 <i>I-9</i> FORMS; AND
	PROFESSIONAL AI			PERSON INTERVIEW OF A LICENSED HEALTH IDER BEFORE ANY REFERRAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS
23 24	(3) PROCESS THAT IN			INTERNAL CLIENT COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION
25 26	COMPLAINT PROC			E TO THE CLIENT OR CLIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
27		<u>(II)</u>	PROTO	COLS TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS;
	HOTLINE NUMBER	FOR C	OMPLAI	CE TO CLIENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINT NTS ABOUT THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY AN NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY; AND
	(5) LICENSED HEALT REFERRAL SERVIO	H PROFI	ESSION <i>A</i>	TS TO ACCEPT OR REJECT, AT THEIR DISCRETION, ANY AL OR CARE PROVIDER REFERRED BY THE NURSING

1 2	<u>(C)</u> <u>A NURSING</u>			ACH LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND CARE PROVIDER, VICE AGENCY SHALL:
3 4	<u>HISTORY R.</u>	<u>ECORDS</u>	(<u>I)</u> CHECK,	<u>APPLY TO THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY FOR A STATE CRIMINAL</u> ; OR
5 6	<u>СНЕСК.</u>		<u>(II)</u>	REQUEST A PRIVATE AGENCY TO CONDUCT A BACKGROUND
	RECORDS O	CHECK, T	THE NUI	RSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL SUBMIT TO
				1. TWO COMPLETE SETS OF LEGIBLE FINGERPRINTS OF THE ESSIONAL OR CARE PROVIDER TAKEN ON FORMS TOR OF THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY; AND
	CRIMINAL RECORDS.		OURE AR	2. THE FEE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 10-221(B)(7) OF THE RTICLE FOR ACCESS TO MARYLAND CRIMINAL HISTORY
18 19	THE LICEN REFERRAL	ISED HE. SERVIC	<u>DURE AR</u> ALTH PR E AGENO	IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 10-201 THROUGH 10-228 OF THE RICLE, THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY SHALL FORWARD TO ROFESSIONAL OR CARE PROVIDER AND THE NURSING CY A PRINTED STATEMENT LISTING THE CRIMINAL PENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OR CARE PROVIDER.
21 22	UNDER TH	IIS SUBSI	(III) ECTION:	INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY
23 24	<u>AND</u>			1. IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY NOT BE REDISSEMINATED;
25 26	<u>AUTHORIZ</u>	ED BY T	HIS SUB	2. MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE SCREENING PURPOSE SECTION.
29	_	T ISSUE	D BY TH	THE SUBJECT OF A CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK MAY CONTEST THE CONTENTS OF THE PRINTED THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY AS PROVIDED IN § 10-223 OF THE RICLE.
31 32	AGENCY T	(<u>3)</u> O COND		URSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY REQUESTS A PRIVATE BACKGROUND CHECK:
33			<u>(I)</u>	THE PRIVATE AGENCY SHALL:
36	KNOW THE	E LICENS	SED HEA	1. CONDUCT A BACKGROUND CHECK IN EACH STATE IN EERRAL SERVICE AGENCY KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO ALTH PROFESSIONAL OR CARE PROVIDER WORKED OR ST 7 YEARS; AND

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1			<u>2.</u>	ISSUE A STATEMENT OF ITS FINDINGS TO:
2 3	<u>CARE PROVIDER;</u>	<u>AND</u>	<u>A.</u>	ON REQUEST, THE LICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OR
4			<u>B.</u>	THE NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY; AND
5 6	SHALL HAVE AN C	<u>(II)</u> OPPORTU		CENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OR CARE PROVIDER CONTEST THE FINDINGS.
7	<u>19-4B-04.</u>			
8 9	(<u>A) (1)</u> THE REQUIREME			ENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT FITLE.
10 11	(2) SERVICE AGENCY			IONS MAY NOT PRECLUDE A NURSING REFERRAL NG WITH INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.
12 13				IENT SHALL ISSUE A 3-YEAR LICENSE TO A NURSING TER THE NURSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY:
14	<u>(1)</u>	COMP	LETES A	N APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE; AND
15	<u>(2)</u>	PAYS.	A LICEN	SING FEE OF \$1,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT.
16 17	(B) (C) EFFECTIVE DATI			ALL EXPIRE ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
18	<u>(1)</u>	THE D	EPARTM	MENT SUSPENDS OR REVOKES THE LICENSE; OR
19	<u>(2)</u>	THE L	ICENSE :	IS RENEWED.
		CTION IF	THE NU	IENT MAY SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENSE ISSUED RSING REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCY IS OPERATING MENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE.
23	<u>19-4B-05.</u>			
25 26	OPERATE OR EN	GAGE IN F A NUR	, OR HO SING RE	NOT OPERATE OR ENGAGE IN, OR ATTEMPT TO LD ONE'S SELF OUT AS OPERATING OR ENGAGING IN FERRAL SERVICE AGENCY UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL FLE.
30	MISDEMEANOR.	AND ON	CONVIC	AL WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A TION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OT EXCEEDING \$10,000 FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT
32 33	(2) CONVICTION IS A			VIOLATION IS CONTINUED AFTER THE FIRST FENSE.

- 1 19-4B-06.
- 2 FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY OTHER PART OF THE CODE PROVISION OF LAW,
- 3 THE GRANTING OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A
- 4 FINDING OF ANY FACT BASED ON WHICH THE LICENSE WAS GRANTED, ON WHICH
- 5 THE GRANTING OF THE LICENSE WAS BASED AND MAY NOT GIVE RISE TO ANY
- 6 PRESUMPTION REGARDING THE EXISTENCE OF ANY FACT BASED ON WHICH THE
- 7 <u>LICENSE WAS GRANTED GRANTING OF THE LICENSE WAS BASED.</u>
- 8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
- 9 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
- 10 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
- 11 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
- 12 the date it is enacted.