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By: **Senators Kelley, Forehand, Britt, Colburn, Conway, Della, Exum, Frosh,  
Garagiola, Hooper, Hughes, Klausmeier, Lawlah, Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2006

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 7, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals - Comparable Evaluation System - Health Care-Associated**  
3 **Infection Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain comparable evaluation system established by  
5 the Maryland Health Care Commission to include health care-associated  
6 infection information from hospitals; requiring the system to adhere, to the  
7 extent possible, to certain recommendations regarding public reporting of health  
8 care-associated infections; and generally relating to the inclusion of health  
9 care-associated infection information from hospitals in a certain comparable  
10 evaluation system.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Health - General  
13 Section 19-134(e)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Health - General**

19 19-134.

20 (e) (1) The Commission may:

1 (i) On or before July 1, 2001, develop and implement a system to  
2 comparatively evaluate the quality of care outcomes and performance measurements  
3 of hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities on an objective basis; and

4 (ii) Annually publish the summary findings of the evaluation.

5 (2) (i) The purpose of a comparable performance measurement system  
6 established under this subsection is to improve the quality of care provided by  
7 hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities by establishing a common set of  
8 performance measurements and disseminating the findings of the performance  
9 measurements to hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, consumers, and interested  
10 parties.

11 (ii) In developing the performance measurement system, the  
12 Commission shall consider the geographic location, urban or rural orientation, and  
13 teaching or nonteaching status of the hospital and the ambulatory surgical facilities,  
14 and the health status of the population served.

15 (3) The system, where appropriate, shall solicit performance information  
16 from consumers.

17 (4) (i) The Commission may adopt regulations to establish the system  
18 of evaluation provided under this subsection.

19 (ii) Before adopting regulations to implement an evaluation system  
20 under this subsection, the Commission shall:

21 1. Consider the performance measurements of appropriate  
22 accreditation organizations, State licensure regulations, Medicare certification  
23 regulations, the quality indicator project of the Association of Maryland Hospitals and  
24 Health Systems, and any other relevant performance measurements;

25 2. Evaluate the desirability and feasibility of developing a  
26 consumer clearinghouse on health care information using existing available data; and

27 3. On or before January 1, 2001, report to the General  
28 Assembly, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on any performance  
29 evaluation developed under this subsection.

30 (5) The Commission may contract with a private entity to implement the  
31 system required under this subsection provided that the entity is not a hospital or an  
32 ambulatory surgical facility.

33 (6) (I) THE COMPARABLE EVALUATION SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER  
34 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTION  
35 INFORMATION FROM HOSPITALS.

36 (II) THE COMPARABLE EVALUATION SYSTEM SHALL ADHERE, TO  
37 THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL  
38 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AND THE CDC

1 HEALTHCARE INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING  
2 PUBLIC REPORTING OF HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 July 1, 2006.