

## CHAPTER 251

(House Bill 682)

AN ACT concerning

### **Health Care Decisions Act – Emergency Medical Services “Do Not Resuscitate Orders” – Health Care Providers**

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain health care providers to comply with an emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” under certain circumstances; requiring certain health care providers to comply with an emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” under certain circumstances; and generally relating to emergency medical services “do not resuscitate orders”.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 5–608(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Health – General**

5–608.

(a) (1) Certified or licensed emergency medical services personnel shall be directed by protocol to follow emergency medical services “do not resuscitate orders” pertaining to adult patients in the outpatient setting in accordance with protocols established by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in conjunctions with the State Board of Physicians.

(2) Emergency medical services “do not resuscitate orders” may not authorize the withholding of medical interventions, or therapies deemed necessary to provide comfort care or to alleviate pain.

(3) A health care provider, other than certified or licensed emergency medical services personnel, **WHO SEES, IN A VALID FORM, AN EMERGENCY**

**MEDICAL SERVICES “DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER” DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT IS NOT SUPERSEDED BY A SUBSEQUENT PHYSICIAN’S ORDER:**

**(I) [may] MAY, BEFORE A PATIENT’S CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST,** provide, withhold, or withdraw treatment in accordance with [an emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” described in paragraph (1) of this subsection if a health care provider sees either the order or a valid, legible, and patient identifying emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” in bracelet form] **THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES “DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER”;**  
**AND**

**(II) SHALL, AFTER A PATIENT’S CARDIAC OR RESPIRATORY ARREST, WITHHOLD OR WITHDRAW TREATMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES “DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER”.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.**