

HOUSE BILL 1188

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8lr2497

By: **Delegates DeBoy, Conway, Malone, Mathias, and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health Work Group – Hospital Preparedness – Snakebite Antivenin**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
4 convene a work group to assess the level of hospital preparedness regarding
5 providing emergency care to patients with snakebites requiring the
6 administration of antivenin and to make certain recommendations; providing
7 for the composition of the work group; requiring the Department to provide staff
8 for the work group; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to
9 certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
10 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a work group
11 assessing hospital preparedness for snakebite care.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall convene a work
15 group to:

16 (1) assess the availability of snakebite antivenin in hospital
17 emergency departments across the State;

18 (2) assess in a timely manner the level of hospital preparedness
19 regarding the treatment of patients who have been bitten by poisonous snakes; and

20 (3) develop recommendations to improve the system of care for
21 patients who have snake bites that require the timely administration of antivenin.

22 (b) The work group shall consist of representatives from:

23 (1) the Maryland Hospital Association;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (2) community and academic hospitals;
- 2 (3) the American College of Emergency Physicians – Maryland
3 Chapter;
- 4 (4) the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;
- 5 (5) the Poison Control Center; and
- 6 (6) any other appropriate stakeholders.

7 (c) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the
8 work group.

9 (d) On or before December 1, 2008, the Department of Health and Mental
10 Hygiene shall report its findings and any recommendations, in accordance with §
11 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the
12 House Health and Government Operations Committee.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
15 December 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
16 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.