

CHAPTER 570

(Senate Bill 286)

AN ACT concerning

Public Health – Antibiotic–Resistant Infection Prevention Campaign

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in collaboration with other State agencies, subject to the availability and appropriation of certain funding, to establish and promote a certain public awareness campaign on antibiotic–resistant infections; providing for the components of the campaign; authorizing the Secretary to use certain resources to carry out the provisions of this Act; requiring certain agencies and subdivisions to provide certain aid and information to the Secretary under certain circumstances; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a public awareness campaign on antibiotic–resistant infections.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 18–110

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

18–110.

(A) (1) ~~THE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING, THE SECRETARY, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES,~~ SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE A STATEWIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS, AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON ANTIBIOTIC–RESISTANT INFECTIONS.

(2) **THE CAMPAIGN SHALL:**

(I) **DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC–RESISTANT INFECTIONS THAT INCLUDE INFORMATION ON:**

1. THE CAUSES AND SYMPTOMS OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIONS, INCLUDING METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS; AND

2. METHODS TO REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIONS, INCLUDING PROPER HAND WASHING TECHNIQUES AND THE USE OF ANTIBACTERIAL PRODUCTS;

(II) DISTRIBUTE THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FREE OF CHARGE TO HEALTH FACILITIES, HEALTH CLINICS, SCHOOLS, AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE TO RECEIVE THE MATERIALS;

(III) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIONS AND METHODS TO REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIONS THROUGH WRITTEN MATERIALS, POSTERS, OR ANY OTHER MEDIUM THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE FOR CONVEYING THE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC; AND

(IV) INCLUDE ANY OTHER MATTER THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.

(B) TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY MAY:

(1) ~~ON REQUEST, SHALL RECEIVE~~ REQUEST AID OR INFORMATION FROM ANY AGENCY OF ~~THIS~~ THE STATE OR FROM A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION;

(2) ~~MAY REQUEST~~ REQUEST THE SERVICES OF INTERESTED ADVOCACY GROUPS; AND

(3) ~~MAY CONTRACT~~ CONTRACT FOR ANY NECESSARY SERVICES.

(C) AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE AID OR INFORMATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE THE REQUESTED AID OR INFORMATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.