

Chapter 409

**(Senate Bill 600)**

AN ACT concerning

**Freestanding Birthing Centers – Use of Ultrasound Imaging**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, after consultation with certain representatives, to establish by regulation certain standards for the use of ultrasound imaging in a freestanding birthing center; and generally relating to freestanding birthing centers and the use of ultrasound imaging.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 19–3B–01(a), (c), and (d)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 19–3B–03(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Health – General**

19–3B–01.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (c) “Freestanding ambulatory care facility” means:
  - (1) An ambulatory surgical facility;
  - (2) A freestanding endoscopy facility;
  - (3) A freestanding facility utilizing major medical equipment;
  - (4) A kidney dialysis center; or
  - (5) A freestanding birthing center.

(d) (1) “Freestanding birthing center” means a facility that provides nurse midwife services under Title 8, Subtitle 6 of the Health Occupations Article.

(2) “Freestanding birthing center” does not include:

- (i) A hospital regulated under Subtitle 2 of this title; or
- (ii) The private residence of the mother.

19-3B-03.

(a) (1) After consultation with representatives of payors, health care practitioners, and **FREESTANDING** ambulatory care facilities, the Secretary shall by regulation establish:

(i) Procedures to implement the provisions of this subtitle; and

(ii) Standards to ensure quality of care and patient safety that shall include:

1. Procedures for credentialing and practitioner performance evaluation;

2. Qualifications of health care practitioners and support personnel;

3. Procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, including a requirement that in the event of an emergency the patient be transported to the nearest appropriate emergency care facility;

4. Procedures for quality control of any biomedical equipment;

5. Procedures for postoperative recovery;

6. Procedures for discharge; [and]

**7. THE USE OF ULTRASOUND IMAGING IN A FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER; AND**

[7.] **8.** Any other procedures that the Secretary considers necessary for quality of care and patient safety.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.**