

Chapter 182

(House Bill 364)

AN ACT concerning

**Hospital and Nursing Facility Workers and Health Care Practitioners
– Identification Tags and Badges – Name Requirement**

FOR the purpose of specifying the form of name required to be indicated on the personal identification tag required to be worn by a certain employee or other individual who provides certain services in a hospital or nursing facility; specifying the form of names required to be displayed on the badge or other form of identification required to be worn by a health care practitioner when providing certain care to a patient in certain facilities; making a conforming change; and generally relating to identification tags and badges of hospital and nursing facility workers and health care practitioners.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 19–308.4
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1–221
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

19–308.4.

(a) Each hospital or nursing facility in the State shall ensure that its employees and any other individuals who provide a health care service within or on the premises of the hospital or nursing facility wear a personal identification tag, except where inappropriate for medical reasons, that indicates in readable text:

- (1) The **FIRST NAME, NICKNAME, LAST NAME, OR FULL** name of the individual **THAT IS COMMONLY USED IN THE HOSPITAL OR NURSING FACILITY**; and
- (2) The professional or other title of the individual.

- (b) The Secretary may impose a fine not to exceed \$25 per violation of this section.

Article – Health Occupations

1–221.

(a) In this section, “health care practitioner” means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under this article to provide health care services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

- (b) This section applies only to a health care practitioner who practices in:

- (1) A freestanding ambulatory care facility;
- (2) A physician’s office; or
- (3) An urgent care facility.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, when providing health care to a patient, a health care practitioner shall wear a badge or other form of identification displaying in readily visible type:

(1) The health care practitioner’s **FIRST NAME, NICKNAME, LAST NAME, OR FULL name THAT IS COMMONLY USED IN THE OFFICE OR FACILITY**; and

- (2) The type of license of the health care practitioner.

- (d) A badge or other form of identification is not required to be worn if:

(1) (i) The patient is being seen in the office of a health care practitioner who is a solo practitioner; and

(ii) The name and license of the health care practitioner can be readily determined by the patient from a posted license or sign in the office; or

- (2) The patient is being seen in:

(i) An operating room or other setting where surgical or other invasive procedures are performed; or

(ii) Any other setting where maintaining a sterile environment is medically necessary.

(e) (1) Each health occupations board may adopt regulations to implement this section.

(2) The regulations, when necessary for the patient or health care practitioner's safety or for therapeutic concerns may[:

(i) Provide] **PROVIDE** exemptions from wearing a badge or other form of identification[; or

(ii) Allow use of the health care practitioner's first name only].

(3) A violation may be reported to the health occupations board that licensed or certified the health care practitioner.

(4) In response to a reported violation, a health occupations board may send an advisory letter or a letter of education to the health care practitioner.

(f) An advisory letter or letter of education sent by a health occupations board under this section is confidential and may not be publicly reported as a disciplinary action.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.