

Approved May 13, 1999.

CHAPTER 408
(House Bill 287)

AN ACT concerning

**Health Care Workers' Safety Act - Bloodborne Pathogen Standard -
Regulations**

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board~~ Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a certain study on the exposures of health care workers to blood and certain potentially infectious materials by objects that can penetrate the skin; requiring the Board Department to recommend regulations to establish hold hearings and prepare a report on the establishment of a bloodborne pathogen standard in consultation with certain government and private entities; requiring the Board Department to complete the study and submit a report to the Commissioner of Labor by and Industry Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring authorizing the Commissioner to adopt regulations in accordance with the recommendations of the Board by a certain date initiate within a certain period of time the process for publishing and issuing a certain proposed regulation based on the Board's report defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a bloodborne pathogen standard and health care workers' safety.

BY adding to

Article - Labor and Employment

Section 5-308.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

Article - Labor and Employment

5-308.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) "BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS" MEANS PATHOGENIC MICROORGANISMS THAT ARE PRESENT IN HUMAN BLOOD AND CAN CAUSE DISEASE IN HUMANS.