

CHAPTER 412

(Senate Bill 626)

AN ACT concerning

Coordination of Immunization Services Act of 2001

FOR the purpose of establishing a computerized information system within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to coordinate immunization data from health care providers; specifying who may use the information in the computerized information system; establishing the purposes of the system; specifying what records may be used to collect information for the system; providing for the confidentiality under certain circumstances of the records of individuals who have received an immunization; requiring a certain individual to use a certain form to request that their individual information not be disclosed by the system or to correct errors in an existing record; requiring the Department to develop and distribute a certain brochure; requiring certain health care providers or their agents to provide certain information to an individual about the computerized information system and their right to refuse to permit ~~redisclosure~~ disclosure; specifying what information may be collected for the system; prohibiting the use of information in the system for certain purposes; authorizing local health departments to operate a local computerized immunization information system if they comply with certain conditions; providing certain immunity for health care providers who disclose or do not disclose information to the system; providing penalties for a violation of certain provisions of this Act; authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to enter into collaborative agreements with other states under certain conditions; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of a computerized information system within the Department for collecting information on immunizations.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 18-109

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Immunizations are essential to protect the health of the citizens of Maryland and prevent the spread of potentially fatal communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, Children under the age of 2 years are at the highest risk of contracting diseases preventable by vaccine that may otherwise lead to serious complications; and