

BY adding to

Article - Health - General
Section 19-705.1(g), (h), and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health Occupations
Section 8-306
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The 1997 federal budget bill contains provisions allowing direct Medicare reimbursement to nurse practitioners regardless of geographic setting; and

WHEREAS, The new Maryland Medicaid Program, known as "HealthChoice", has recognized nurse practitioners as primary care providers; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Maryland General Assembly passed the "Patient Access Act", which provided health maintenance organization (HMO) members or subscribers greater access and choice of providers; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly to support health care providers who are practicing as their licenses allow; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly to allow members or subscribers of HMOs the greatest amount of choice in selecting a primary care provider; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly to effect both of these goals without interfering with the current relationship between physicians and nurse practitioners; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Maryland General Assembly to clarify the laws of Maryland as they relate to allowing members or subscribers of HMOs the greatest amount of choice in selecting a primary care provider who can best provide for their health care needs; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health - General

19-701.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(f) "Health maintenance organization" means any person, including a profit or nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of any state or country, that: