

# HOUSE BILL 777

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7lr2566  
CF 7lr2686

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By: **Delegate Dumais**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Patient Early Intervention Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a statement made by a party during a discussion held  
4 in accordance with a certain patient safety early intervention program is  
5 inadmissible in a certain legal proceeding; authorizing a hospital or related  
6 institution to establish a patient safety early intervention program; establishing  
7 certain requirements for a patient safety early intervention program; providing that  
8 services or support provided to a patient or the patient's family do not affect the right  
9 of the patient or the patient's family to certain compensation; defining certain terms;  
10 providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to patient safety early  
11 intervention programs and the admissibility of evidence in a proceeding or an action  
12 relating to health care malpractice.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
15 Section 10–920.1  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Health – General  
20 Section 19–304.1  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **10-920.1.**

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

4 (2) "PATIENT SAFETY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM" MEANS A  
5 PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 19-304.1(C) OF THE HEALTH -  
6 GENERAL ARTICLE.

7 (3) "STATEMENT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN MARYLAND RULE  
8 5-801.

9 (B) IN A PROCEEDING SUBJECT TO TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 2A OF THIS ARTICLE  
10 OR A CIVIL ACTION FOR HEALTH CARE MALPRACTICE AGAINST A HEALTH CARE  
11 PROVIDER, A STATEMENT MADE DURING A DISCUSSION HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
12 A PATIENT SAFETY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM IS INADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE.

13 **Article - Health - General**

14 **19-304.1.**

15 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ADVERSE EVENT" MEANS AN UNEXPECTED  
16 OCCURRENCE THAT RELATES TO A PATIENT'S MEDICAL TREATMENT BUT IS NOT  
17 RELATED TO THE NATURAL COURSE OF A PATIENT'S UNDERLYING ILLNESS,  
18 DISEASE, OR CONDITION.

19 (B) A HOSPITAL OR RELATED INSTITUTION MAY ESTABLISH A PATIENT  
20 SAFETY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM.

21 (C) A PATIENT SAFETY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM SHALL:

22 (1) PROVIDE FOR THE REASONABLE INVESTIGATION OF AN ADVERSE  
23 EVENT TO DETERMINE IF HARM TO A PATIENT OCCURRED AND IF THE CARE  
24 PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT DEVIATED FROM THE ACCEPTED STANDARD OF CARE;  
25 AND

26 (2) IF IT IS DETERMINED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION THAT HARM TO A  
27 PATIENT OCCURRED AND THAT THE CARE PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT DEVIATED  
28 FROM THE ACCEPTED STANDARD OF CARE:

29 (I) OBTAIN INPUT ABOUT THE ADVERSE EVENT FROM THE  
30 PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S FAMILY;

1                   **(II) DISCLOSE TO THE PATIENT AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE**  
2 **PATIENT'S FAMILY THE RESULTS AND FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATION;**

3                   **(III) APOLOGIZE TO THE PATIENT FOR THE CARE PROVIDED**  
4 **THAT DEVIATED FROM THE STANDARD OF CARE;**

5                   **(IV) ADVISE THE PATIENT OF THE PATIENT'S RIGHT TO LEGAL**  
6 **REPRESENTATION IN DISCUSSIONS REGARDING FAIR AND REASONABLE**  
7 **COMPENSATION TO THE PATIENT; AND**

8                   **(V) ALLOW THE PATIENT AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE PATIENT'S**  
9 **FAMILY TO PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT SYSTEM**  
10 **IMPROVEMENTS DESIGNED TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE ADVERSE EVENT.**

11           **(D) A HOSPITAL OR RELATED INSTITUTION THAT ESTABLISHES A PATIENT**  
12 **SAFETY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION**  
13 **SHALL DEVELOP AND PROVIDE TO THE PATIENT AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE**  
14 **PATIENT'S FAMILY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM.**

15           **(E) ANY SERVICE OR SUPPORT, INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT,**  
16 **PROVIDED TO A PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S FAMILY DOES NOT AFFECT THE RIGHT**  
17 **OF THE PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S FAMILY TO FAIR AND REASONABLE**  
18 **COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADVERSE EVENT AVAILABLE**  
19 **UNDER STATE LAW IF THE PARTIES ARE UNABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.**

20           **(F) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION AFFECTS THE PROVISIONS OF § 1-401 OF**  
21 **THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.**

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
23 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
24 application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

25           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2017.