

HOUSE BILL 971

J3

9lr2837

By: **Delegate Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals – Emergency Departments – Identification, Treatment, and Rescue of**
3 **Human Trafficking Victims**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain hospitals to have a certain protocol and a certain
5 forensic nurse examiner on staff who is present at all times in the hospital's
6 emergency department to identify, treat, and rescue victims of human trafficking
7 who arrive at the emergency department for treatment, to the extent practicable;
8 making a certain stylistic change; and generally relating to hospital emergency
9 departments identifying, treating, and rescuing victims of human trafficking.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 19–310.2
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 19–310.2.

19 (A) [On or before July 1, 2014, each] **EACH** hospital that provides emergency
20 medical services shall have a protocol to provide timely access to a sexual assault medical
21 forensic examination by a forensic nurse examiner or a physician to a victim of an alleged
22 rape [or], sexual offense, **OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING** who arrives at the hospital for
23 treatment.

24 (B) **TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, EACH HOSPITAL THAT PROVIDES**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SHALL HAVE A TRAINED FORENSIC NURSE
2 EXAMINER ON STAFF WHO IS PRESENT AT ALL TIMES IN THE HOSPITAL'S
3 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY, TREAT, AND RESCUE HUMAN TRAFFICKING
4 VICTIMS WHO ARRIVE AT THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR TREATMENT.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2019.