

# SENATE BILL 180

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By: **Senators Manno, Lee, Montgomery, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – National Healthcare Decisions**  
3 **Day**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as National  
5 Healthcare Decisions Day; and generally relating to National Healthcare Decisions  
6 Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–404 through 7–413, respectively

10 to be Section 7–405 through 7–414, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–404

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Advance directives help people indicate the kind of care they want  
20 during a medical crisis or at the end of life; and

21 WHEREAS, Advance directives support individuals and families in receiving  
22 humane, personalized health care by respecting an individual’s wishes and values; and

23 WHEREAS, The use of advance directives often leads to reduced health care costs  
24 by avoiding unwanted and unnecessary health care expenses; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Advance directive forms are free, legal, readily available, and  
2 straightforward; and

3 WHEREAS, Advance directive forms can be obtained online and from the State,  
4 health care facilities, and faith-based institutions; and

5 WHEREAS, Only about 30% of Marylanders have advance directives; and

6 WHEREAS, The rate of the use of advance directives is lower among those in  
7 minority groups, and this is now recognized as a minority health disparity; and

8 WHEREAS, Educational and public information programs can help increase the rate  
9 of advance directives; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
11 That Section(s) 7-404 through 7-413, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-405 through 7-414,  
13 respectively.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
15 as follows:

16 **Article – General Provisions**

17 **7-404.**

18 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM APRIL 16 AS NATIONAL**  
19 **HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY.**

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2015.