

SENATE BILL 681

D1, D3

5lr3185
CF 5lr2274

By: **Senator Charles**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Malpractice Claims – Health Care Provider – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “health care provider” to include certain
4 employees, agents, or contractors of a hospital in provisions relating to health care
5 malpractice claims; and generally relating to health care malpractice claims.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 3–2A–01(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 3–2A–01(f)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 3–2A–01.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the
21 context of their use requires otherwise.

22 (f) (1) “Health care provider” means a hospital, a related institution as defined
23 in § 19–301 of the Health – General Article, a medical day care center, a hospice care
24 program, an assisted living program, a freestanding ambulatory care facility as defined in

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



§ 19-3B-01 of the Health – General Article, a physician, a physician assistant, an osteopath, an optometrist, a chiropractor, a registered or licensed practical nurse, a dentist, a podiatrist, a psychologist, a licensed certified social worker–clinical, **AN EMPLOYEE, AGENT, OR CONTRACTOR OF A HOSPITAL WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, REGISTERED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO RENDER HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN MARYLAND**, and a physical therapist, licensed or authorized to provide one or more health care services in Maryland.

(2) “Health care provider” does not include any nursing institution conducted by and for those who rely upon treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.