

SENATE BILL 223

Unofficial Copy  
J1  
SB 434/01 - EEA

2003 Regular Session  
3lr0998

---

By: **Senators Hollinger, Hooper, Britt, Conway, and Jacobs**  
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 3, 2003

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Right to Breast-Feed**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or  
4 private place under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain restrictions on  
5 breast-feeding; and generally relating to the right to breast-feed.

6 BY adding to  
7 Article - Health - General  
8 Section 20-801 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8. Breast-Feeding"  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

11 **Preamble**

12 WHEREAS, More than 2 decades of research have established that breast-fed  
13 infants have lower rates of hospital admissions, ear infections, diarrhea, rashes,  
14 allergies, and other medical problems than bottle-fed infants; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics states that human milk is  
16 made for human infants and meets all their specific nutritional needs; and

17 WHEREAS, Human breast milk contains antibodies from the mother that can  
18 help an infant resist infections; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association  
20 of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners recommend breast-feeding for as long  
21 as possible during a child's first year of life; and

1 WHEREAS, Health experts have stated that increased breast-feeding rates  
2 could save infant lives; and

3 WHEREAS, Government and private experts are working to raise the rate of  
4 breast-feeding of infants; and

5 WHEREAS, No mother should be made to feel incriminated or socially  
6 ostracized for breast-feeding her child; and

7 WHEREAS, The State is interested in the promotion of family values and to  
8 that end encourages public acceptance of this basic act of nurture between a mother  
9 and her child; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a social and economic benefit for the State in the creation  
11 of an atmosphere in which a mother can feel safe and confident about breast-feeding  
12 her child; now, therefore,

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

15 **Article - Health - General**

16 **SUBTITLE 8. BREAST-FEEDING.**

17 20-801.

18 (A) A MOTHER MAY BREAST-FEED HER CHILD IN ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
19 LOCATION IN WHICH THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE.

20 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT RESTRICT OR LIMIT THE RIGHT OF A MOTHER TO  
21 BREAST-FEED HER CHILD.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2003.