CHAPTER_______

1 AN ACT concerning

Right to Breast-Feed

2 FOR the purpose of authorizing a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or
private place under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain restrictions on
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
infants have lower rates of hospital admissions, ear infections, diarrhea, rashes,
allergies, and other medical problems than bottle-fed infants; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association
of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners recommend breast-feeding for as long
as possible during a child's first year of life; and
WHEREAS, Health experts have stated that increased breast-feeding rates could save infant lives; and

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

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

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

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

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

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 8. BREAST-FEEDING.

20-801.

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

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

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