

HOUSE BILL 1146

J1, J3

8lr2323
CF SB 690

By: **Delegates Manno, Bobo, Bronrott, Dumais, Feldman, Frick, Frush, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Hubbard, Hucker, Kaiser, Kramer, Lee, McHale, McIntosh, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Rosenberg, Ross, Tarrant, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Limited Service Pregnancy Centers – Disclaimers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that limited service pregnancy centers make certain
4 disclaimers to clients and potential clients; requiring that certain disclaimers be
5 given by certain staff under certain circumstances and in a certain manner;
6 defining a certain term; and generally relating to disclaimers to clients by
7 limited service pregnancy centers.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 20–215
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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 **20–215.**

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “LIMITED SERVICE PREGNANCY CENTER” MEANS
18 AN ORGANIZATION OR CENTER THAT:

19 (1) HAS A PRIMARY PURPOSE TO PROVIDE PREGNANCY-RELATED
20 SERVICES;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) FOR A FEE OR AS A FREE SERVICE, PROVIDES INFORMATION**
2 **ABOUT PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES; AND**

3 **(3) DOES NOT PROVIDE OR REFER FOR:**

4 **(I) ABORTIONS; OR**

5 **(II) NONDIRECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE CONTRACEPTIVE**
6 **SERVICES.**

7 **(B) A LIMITED SERVICE PREGNANCY CENTER SHALL PROVIDE A**
8 **DISCLAIMER TO A CLIENT OR POTENTIAL CLIENT THAT STATES:**

9 **(1) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CENTER IS NOT**
10 **INTENDED TO BE MEDICAL ADVICE OR TO ESTABLISH A DOCTOR-PATIENT**
11 **RELATIONSHIP;**

12 **(2) THE CLIENT OR POTENTIAL CLIENT SHOULD CONSULT WITH A**
13 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PRIOR TO PROCEEDING ON ANY COURSE OF ACTION**
14 **REGARDING THE PREGNANCY OF THE CLIENT OR POTENTIAL CLIENT; AND**

15 **(3) THE CENTER IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FACTUALLY**
16 **ACCURATE INFORMATION TO CLIENTS.**

17 **(C) THE DISCLAIMER REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
18 **SECTION SHALL BE GIVEN:**

19 **(1) BY THE STAFF ASSISTING THE CLIENT OR POTENTIAL CLIENT;**

20 **(2) DURING THE FIRST COMMUNICATION OR FIRST CONTACT**
21 **WITH THE CLIENT OR POTENTIAL CLIENT; AND**

22 **(3) IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT OR ORAL COMMUNICATION THAT IS**
23 **REASONABLY UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE CLIENT.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2008.