

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 195  
Finance

(Senators Simonaire and Greenip)

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**Anne Arundel County - Ultrasound Options**

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This bill requires facilities in Anne Arundel County that provide abortion services and are equipped with ultrasonography equipment to offer all patients the option to view an image of the fetus, receive an image printout, and listen to the heartbeat of the fetus before performing an abortion. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene has to adopt regulations to implement the bill by December 31, 2009.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene can adopt regulations with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An abortion has to be performed by a licensed physician. With some specified exceptions, Maryland law requires a physician to notify an unmarried minor's parent or guardian before performing an abortion. Maryland law does not specifically address information that must be provided to the patient before performing an abortion.

**Background:** Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Dakota laws require a provider to offer a woman the opportunity to view an image of her fetus before performing an abortion. Arizona and Florida laws require that this opportunity be provided for abortions performed after the first trimester.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Guttmacher Institute, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2009  
mam/mwc

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