

# HOUSE BILL 668

J1, F1, P1

8lr2310

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By: **Delegates M. Washington, Afzali, Buckel, Cullison, Gibson, Glenn, Kelly, McCray, Patterson, and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month – Awareness, Training, and Resource**  
3 **Materials**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the  
5 Maryland Department of Health, to provide awareness and training to certain  
6 individuals on pediatric stroke; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to  
7 provide to the State Department of Education certain information on pediatric  
8 stroke; requiring the Governor to proclaim annually a certain month to be Pediatric  
9 Stroke Awareness Month; requiring the proclamation to urge the Maryland  
10 Department of Health and certain other entities to observe the month with certain  
11 activities; and generally relating to awareness, training, and resource materials on  
12 pediatric stroke and Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month.

13 BY renumbering

14 Article – General Provisions  
15 Section 7–504 through 7–506, respectively  
16 to be Section 7–505 through 7–507, respectively  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Education  
21 Section 7–441  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article – General Provisions  
26 Section 7–504  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Stroke occurs at a rate of 1 in 1,600 to 4,000 live births each year and 12 in 100,000 children per year, with stroke being the sixth leading cause of death in children; and

WHEREAS, Between 50% and 85% of infants and children who have a pediatric stroke will have permanent neurological disabilities, including paralysis and seizures, speech and vision problems, and attention, learning, and behavioral difficulties, and may require ongoing physical therapy, educational interventions, and rehabilitative treatment; and

WHEREAS, The lifelong health challenges and treatments resulting from pediatric stroke place a significant financial and emotional toll on the child, the family, and our society; and

WHEREAS, Since very little is known regarding the cause, treatment, and prevention of pediatric stroke risk factors, symptoms, prevention efforts, and treatments are often different for children; and

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and treatment of pediatric stroke greatly improves the chance of recovery and preventing recurrence; and

WHEREAS, Only through continued medical research can effective treatment and prevention strategies for pediatric stroke be identified and developed; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness of pediatric stroke and support for further research will lead to earlier diagnosis of and more effective treatment for pediatric stroke and greatly improve the chances of recovery and preventing recurrence; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–504 through 7–506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–505 through 7–507, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

**7–441.**

**(A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL PROVIDE AWARENESS AND TRAINING FOR**

1 **DIRECTORS OF STUDENT SERVICES IN LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES ON PEDIATRIC**  
2 **STROKE.**

3 **(B) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL PROVIDE TO THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT RESOURCE INFORMATION ON PEDIATRIC STROKE TO BE**  
5 **DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERVISORS OF HEALTH.**

6 **Article – General Provisions**

7 **7-504.**

8 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY AS**  
9 **PEDIATRIC STROKE AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF ALL MARYLANDERS,**  
10 **INCLUDING FAMILY CAREGIVERS, WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY PEDIATRIC**  
11 **STROKE.**

12 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
13 **HEALTH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADVOCACY**  
14 **ENTITIES, TO OBSERVE PEDIATRIC STROKE AWARENESS MONTH PROPERLY WITH**  
15 **APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PROVIDING**  
16 **INFORMATION ON THE WARNING SIGNS OF PEDIATRIC STROKE TO LICENSED CHILD**  
17 **CARE PROVIDERS AND SCHOOL NURSES.**

18 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
19 **October 1, 2018.**