

# HOUSE BILL 1467

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CF SB 574

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By: **Delegates Sample–Hughes, Angel, Cullison, Hill, Patterson, Saab, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health to establish a Sepsis Public  
4 Awareness Campaign Workgroup; providing for the membership of the Workgroup;  
5 requiring the Workgroup to develop a certain public awareness campaign, identify,  
6 review, and evaluate certain resources, and identify cost–effective methods for  
7 disseminating certain information; requiring the Workgroup to report to certain  
8 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally  
9 relating to a Sepsis Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Sepsis is a serious and often fatal clinical syndrome, resulting from  
12 infection; and

13 WHEREAS, Sepsis is a leading cause of deaths in hospitals and a leading cause of  
14 preventable deaths in children; and

15 WHEREAS, Sepsis affects more than 1 million Americans each year at an annual  
16 cost of over \$20 billion; and

17 WHEREAS, Early recognition and intensive treatment are critical to decreasing  
18 morbidity and mortality from sepsis; and

19 WHEREAS, Public education about sepsis symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and  
20 preventive measures is lacking because sepsis is a clinical syndrome with many causes that  
21 requires diagnosis by a physician; and

22 WHEREAS, Many different types of infections can lead to sepsis and a majority of  
23 patients develop infections leading to sepsis outside a hospital; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Maryland needs a coordinated and comprehensive campaign to educate  
2 the public on the need to prevent infections, the symptoms of sepsis, and the need for  
3 immediate treatment if sepsis is suspected or for an infection that is not improving or is  
4 getting worse; now, therefore,

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
6 That:

7 (a) (1) The Secretary of Health shall establish a Sepsis Public Awareness  
8 Campaign Workgroup.

9 (2) The Workgroup shall include the following members:

10 (i) two individuals who have had sepsis or have a family member  
11 who has had sepsis;

12 (ii) two representatives of hospitals;

13 (iii) one licensed emergency medicine physician;

14 (iv) one licensed primary care physician;

15 (v) one licensed pediatrician;

16 (vi) one representative of a local health department;

17 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Patient Safety Center;

18 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Nurses Association;

19 (ix) one representative from the Maryland State Department of  
20 Education;

21 (x) one representative from the Maryland Department of Health;

22 (xi) one infection control professional; and

23 (xii) one individual with expertise in public communication.

24 (b) The Workgroup shall:

25 (1) develop a public awareness campaign on sepsis awareness and  
26 prevention that includes:

27 (i) a definition of sepsis;

- 1                   (ii)    the risks associated with sepsis;
- 2                   (iii)   how sepsis may occur;
- 3                   (iv)    the signs and symptoms of sepsis;
- 4                   (v)     what to do if symptoms of sepsis are present; and
- 5                   (vi)    methods for prevention of sepsis;
- 6                   (2)     identify, review, and evaluate resources that could be used to educate
- 7   the public on sepsis; and
- 8                   (3)     identify cost-effective methods for disseminating information to the
- 9   public about sepsis.
- 10               (c)    On or before December 1, 2018, the Workgroup shall report to the Senate
- 11   Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in
- 12   accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the public awareness
- 13   campaign developed under subsection (b) of this section.

14               SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June

15   1, 2018.