

# HOUSE BILL 1518

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By: **Delegates Wilkins, Angel, Barron, Hayes, Kelly, and Morales**

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 – Maternal Mortality Review Committee**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to appoint a  
4 certain number of additional members to its membership in existence as of a certain  
5 date; requiring the members added to the Committee to include certain individuals  
6 and, to the extent practicable, reflect a certain diversity; requiring the Committee to  
7 establish a certain Action Task Force subcommittee; requiring the Action Task Force  
8 subcommittee to have a certain membership; requiring the Action Task Force  
9 subcommittee to analyze certain factors, examine the impact of certain factors on  
10 maternal deaths, review and make certain recommendations, and play a certain role  
11 in coordinating with the Committee when making certain recommendations;  
12 authorizing the Committee to interview certain individuals in carrying out certain  
13 duties; requiring the Committee to prepare a certain report for a certain year with  
14 certain recommendations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the  
15 Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Health – General  
18 Section 13–1201  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Health – General  
23 Section 13–1206.1  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

26 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Maternal deaths are a key indicator of the health of residents of the  
2 State, as well as the status of social and economic development in the State; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States ranks 60th in the world for maternal mortality,  
4 behind all other developed nations; and

5 WHEREAS, Maryland ranks 38th in the nation for maternal mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, Maryland established a Maternal Mortality Review Committee in 2000  
7 to identify maternal death cases, review medical records, determine the preventability of  
8 maternal deaths, and make recommendations for the prevention of maternal deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, The State's maternal mortality rate has increased 51% when comparing  
10 the review period of 2010 to 2014 with the review period of 2005 to 2009; and

11 WHEREAS, The Maternal Mortality Review Committee has found that most of the  
12 maternal deaths that have occurred have been preventable; and

13 WHEREAS, The State, with the leadership of the Maternal Mortality Review  
14 Committee and support of the Action Task Force, needs to identify ways to prevent  
15 maternal deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, The time has come for Maryland to act to save the lives of mothers; now,  
17 therefore,

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

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 13–1201.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Faculty” means the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty in the State.

24 (c) “Maternal child health committee” means the maternal child health  
25 committee of the Faculty that is a medical review committee, as defined under § 1–401 of  
26 the Health Occupations Article.

27 (d) “Maternal death” means the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 1  
28 year after the woman ceases to be pregnant.

29 (E) **“MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE” MEANS THE**  
30 **COMMITTEE HOSTED BY THE MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE THAT ASSISTS**  
31 **THE DEPARTMENT BY REVIEWING MATERNAL DEATHS AND DEVELOPING**  
32 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF MATERNAL DEATHS.**

1 13-1206.1.

2 (A) (1) THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL  
3 APPOINT AT LEAST SIX ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO ITS MEMBERSHIP IN EXISTENCE  
4 AS OF JULY 1, 2018.

5 (2) THE MEMBERS ADDED TO THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW  
6 COMMITTEE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

7 (I) INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF  
8 VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH, INCLUDING MOTHERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL  
9 DEATH;

10 (II) REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT  
11 WORK WITH IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH,  
12 INCLUDING MOTHERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH;

13 (III) REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S HEALTH AND ADVOCACY  
14 ORGANIZATIONS;

15 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HEALTHY START PROGRAM; AND

16 (V) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND PATIENT SAFETY  
17 CENTER.

18 (3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS ADDED TO THE  
19 MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND GEOGRAPHIC  
21 DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

22 (B) (1) THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL  
23 ESTABLISH AN ACTION TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE.

24 (2) THE ACTION TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE SHALL HAVE A  
25 MEMBERSHIP THAT CONSISTS IN EQUAL PARTS OF:

26 (I) ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY  
27 REVIEW COMMITTEE ADDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND

28 (II) EXISTING MEMBERS OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY  
29 REVIEW COMMITTEE AS OF JULY 1, 2018.

**(C) (1) THE ACTION TASK FORCE SHALL:**

**(I) ANALYZE THE FACTORS CAUSING A DISPROPORTIONATE MATERNAL DEATH RATE AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND OTHER WOMEN OF COLOR;**

**(II) EXAMINE THE IMPACT ON MATERNAL DEATHS OF:**

- 1. BEHAVIORAL AND SOMATIC HEALTH FACTORS; AND**
- 2. HEALTH EQUITY AND THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH; AND**

**(III) REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE TO PREVENT MATERNAL DEATHS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO:**

- 1. HEALTH CARE ACCESS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER PREGNANCY;**
- 2. THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MATERNAL DEATH;**
- 3. DOCUMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC AND CONCURRENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS; AND**
- 4. THE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

**(2) THE ACTION TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE SHALL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN COORDINATING WITH THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE WHEN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE.**

**(D) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE, THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE MAY INTERVIEW FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH.**

**(E) THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018 WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT MATERNAL DEATHS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ACTION TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE**

1 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE TO PREVENT**  
2 **MATERNAL DEATHS.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2018.