

SENATE BILL 266

J1

(8lr1085)

ENROLLED BILL

— Finance/Health and Government Operations —

Introduced by **Senators Nathan–Pulliam, Benson, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kelley, McFadden, Ramirez, Robinson, and ~~Young~~ Young, Astle, Feldman, Jennings, Hershey, Klausmeier, Mathias, Middleton, Oaks, Reilly, and Rosapepe**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American**
3 **Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with
5 the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, *the Maternal and Child Health*
6 *Bureau, the Vital Statistics Administration,* and interested stakeholders, to conduct
7 a study regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in
8 rural areas; requiring the Commission, in conducting the study, to examine certain
9 factors and make certain recommendations; requiring, on or before a certain date,
10 the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of
11 the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Care

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Commission and a study of the mortality rates of African American infants and
2 infants in rural areas.

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
4 That:

5 (a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of
6 Minority Health and Health Disparities, *the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Vital*
7 *Statistics Administration*, and interested stakeholders, shall conduct a study regarding the
8 mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas.

9 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the
10 Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

11 (1) examine factors, beyond the known factors of low birth weight, teen
12 pregnancy, poor nutrition, and lack of prenatal care, affecting the mortality of
13 African American infants and infants in rural areas in the United States and in the State;

14 (2) research programs in other countries, states, and localities, including
15 Baltimore City, that have aimed to reduce the infant mortality rate;

16 (3) make recommendations on methods to reduce the mortality rate of
17 African American infants and infants in rural areas;

18 (4) make recommendations on ways to use pregnancy navigators or
19 community health workers to assist pregnant women with the goal of reducing the infant
20 mortality rate;

21 (5) make legislative recommendations regarding the establishment of a
22 permanent council for lowering rates of disparity with respect to infant mortality; and

23 (6) make recommendations regarding methods to reduce the costs
24 associated with low birth weight infants and with infant mortality.

25 (c) On or before ~~June 30~~ November 1, 2019, the Maryland Health Care
26 Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation
27 establishing a permanent council on infant mortality in the State, to the Senate ~~Education,~~
28 ~~Health, and Environmental Affairs~~ Finance Committee and the House Health and
29 Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
30 Article.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2018.