

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 10 (Delegates K. Young and Pena-Melnyk)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Decreasing Surgical Births

This joint resolution recognizes the benefits that lowering the rate of surgical births confers on women and their babies and affirms that the State should work to ensure that barriers to nonoperative vaginal births are removed. The joint resolution encourages providers of maternity care to support and promote nonoperative vaginal births. The joint resolution urges all State agencies that administer maternal and child health programs to share with patients information about how to reduce the likelihood of a medically unnecessary surgical birth and to encourage and support parents' birthing choices with evidence-based practices.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015, 32% of all births in the United States were via cesarean delivery; the rate in Maryland was 34.9%, the sixth highest among all states and territories. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2020 project has an established goal of reducing the number of births delivered by cesarean section to low-risk females (full-term, singleton pregnancies with vertex presentation) to 23.9%, a 10% improvement from the baseline of 26.5% in 2007.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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