

## Chapter 308

## (House Bill 1518)

AN ACT concerning

**Public Health – Maternal Mortality Review ~~Committee~~ Program – Report and Stakeholder Meetings**

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Maternal Mortality Review Committee to appoint a certain number of additional members to its membership in existence as of a certain date; requiring the members added to the Committee to include certain individuals and, to the extent practicable, reflect a certain diversity; requiring the Committee to establish a certain Action Task Force subcommittee; requiring the Action Task Force subcommittee to have a certain membership; requiring the Action Task Force subcommittee to analyze certain factors, examine the impact of certain factors on maternal deaths, review and make certain recommendations, and play a certain role in coordinating with the Committee when making certain recommendations; authorizing the Committee to interview certain individuals in carrying out certain duties; requiring the Committee to prepare a certain report for a certain year with certain recommendations; defining a certain term~~ Secretary of Health to include a certain summary of certain meetings in a certain report; requiring the Secretary to convene certain meetings of certain stakeholders at least a certain number of times each year; requiring certain meetings to be held within certain time periods and for certain purposes; and generally relating to the Maternal Mortality Review ~~Committee~~ Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Health – General  
 Section ~~13-1201~~ 13-1207  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to  
 Article – Health – General  
 Section ~~13-1206.1~~ 13-1208  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

## Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Article – Health – General

~~13-1201.~~

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

~~(b) "Faculty" means the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty in the State.~~

~~(c) "Maternal child health committee" means the maternal child health committee of the Faculty that is a medical review committee, as defined under § 1-401 of the Health Occupations Article.~~

~~(d) "Maternal death" means the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 1 year after the woman ceases to be pregnant.~~

~~(e) "MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE" MEANS THE COMMITTEE HOSTED BY THE MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH COMMITTEE THAT ASSISTS THE DEPARTMENT BY REVIEWING MATERNAL DEATHS AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF MATERNAL DEATHS.~~

~~13-1206.1.~~

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

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

~~(i) INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH, INCLUDING MOTHERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH;~~

~~(ii) REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK WITH IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH, INCLUDING MOTHERS OF VICTIMS OF MATERNAL DEATH;~~

~~(iii) REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S HEALTH AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS;~~

~~(iv) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HEALTHY START PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(v) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND PATIENT SAFETY CENTER.~~

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

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

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

~~(i) ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE ADDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

~~(ii) EXISTING MEMBERS OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY 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 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE TO PREVENT MATERNAL DEATHS.~~

13-1207.

(A) On or before December 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit a report on findings, recommendations, and Program actions to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION A SUMMARY OF ANY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS HELD UNDER § 13-1208 OF THIS SUBTITLE DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD THAT INCLUDES:

(1) STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES TO EXISTING RECOMMENDATIONS;  
AND

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT ADDRESS FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MATERNAL MORTALITY.

13-1208.

(A) AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL CONVENE A MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF:

(1) THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES;

(2) THE MARYLAND PATIENT SAFETY CENTER;

(3) THE MARYLAND ~~HEAD~~ *HEALTHY* START PROGRAM;

(4) WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS;

(5) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN MATERNAL HEALTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT ISSUES;

(6) FAMILIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED A MATERNAL DEATH;

(7) LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS; AND

(8) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS THAT PROVIDE MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(B) OF THE TWO MEETINGS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:

**(1) ONE MEETING SHALL BE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 13-1207 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO:**

**(I) REVIEW THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT;**

**(II) EXAMINE ISSUES RESULTING IN DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL DEATHS;**

**(III) REVIEW THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS; AND**

**(IV) IDENTIFY NEW RECOMMENDATIONS WITH A FOCUS ON INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ISSUES RESULTING IN DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL DEATHS; AND**

**(2) ONE MEETING SHALL BE HELD WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE MEETING HELD UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDER ANY NEW INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.**

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

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.