

# HOUSE BILL 781

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CF 0lr3218

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By: **Delegates Hettleman and Kelly**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – In Vitro Fertilization – Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain entities from discriminating on the basis of the  
4 marital status of a policyholder or subscriber when providing coverage for certain  
5 expenses arising from in vitro fertilization procedures; altering the circumstances  
6 under which certain entities are required to provide coverage for certain expenses  
7 arising from in vitro fertilization procedures; making conforming changes; providing  
8 for the application of this Act; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally  
9 relating to health insurance and coverage for in vitro fertilization procedures.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Insurance  
12 Section 15–810  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Insurance**

18 15–810.

19 (a) This section applies to:

20 (1) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital,  
21 medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups on an expense–incurred basis under  
22 health insurance policies that are issued or delivered in the State; and

23 (2) health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or  
24 surgical benefits to individuals or groups under contracts that are issued or delivered in

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the State.

2 (b) An entity subject to this section that provides coverage for infertility benefits  
3 other than in vitro fertilization may not require as a condition of that coverage, for a patient  
4 who is married to an individual of the same sex:

5 (1) that the patient's spouse's sperm be used in the covered treatments or  
6 procedures; or

7 (2) that the patient demonstrate infertility exclusively by means of a  
8 history of unsuccessful heterosexual intercourse.

9 (c) (1) This subsection does not apply to insurers, nonprofit health service  
10 plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or surgical  
11 benefits under health insurance policies or contracts:

12 (i) that are issued or delivered to a small employer in the State; and

13 (ii) for which the Administration has determined that in vitro  
14 fertilization procedures are not essential health benefits, as determined under § 31–116 of  
15 this article.

16 (2) An entity subject to this section that provides pregnancy-related  
17 benefits may not exclude benefits for all outpatient expenses arising from in vitro  
18 fertilization procedures performed on a policyholder or subscriber or on the dependent  
19 spouse of a policyholder or subscriber.

20 (3) The benefits under this subsection shall be provided:

21 (i) for insurers and nonprofit health service plans, to the same  
22 extent as the benefits provided for other pregnancy-related procedures; and

23 (ii) for health maintenance organizations, to the same extent as the  
24 benefits provided for other infertility services.

25 **(4) AN ENTITY PROVIDING COVERAGE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY**  
26 **NOT DISCRIMINATE BASED ON THE MARITAL STATUS OF A POLICYHOLDER OR**  
27 **SUBSCRIBER.**

28 (d) Subsection (c) of this section applies if:

29 (1) the patient is the policyholder or subscriber or a covered dependent of  
30 the policyholder or subscriber;

31 (2) for a **MARRIED** patient whose spouse is of the opposite sex, the patient's  
32 oocytes are fertilized with the patient's spouse's sperm, unless:

1 (i) the patient's spouse is unable to produce and deliver functional  
2 sperm; and

3 (ii) the inability to produce and deliver functional sperm does not  
4 result from:

5 1. a vasectomy; or

6 2. another method of voluntary sterilization;

7 (3) (i) **FOR A MARRIED PATIENT**, the patient and the patient's spouse  
8 have a history of involuntary infertility, which may be demonstrated by a history of:

9 1. if the patient and the patient's spouse are of opposite  
10 sexes, intercourse of at least [2 years'] **1 YEAR'S** duration failing to result in pregnancy; or

11 2. if the patient and the patient's spouse are of the same sex,  
12 [six] **THREE** attempts of artificial insemination over the course of [2 years] **1 YEAR** failing  
13 to result in pregnancy; or

14 (ii) the infertility **OF THE PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S SPOUSE** is  
15 associated with any of the following medical conditions:

16 1. endometriosis;

17 2. exposure in utero to diethylstilbestrol, commonly known  
18 as DES;

19 3. blockage of, or surgical removal of, one or both fallopian  
20 tubes (lateral or bilateral salpingectomy); or

21 4. abnormal male factors, including oligospermia,  
22 contributing to the infertility;

23 **(4) FOR AN UNMARRIED PATIENT:**

24 **(I) THE PATIENT HAS HAD THREE ATTEMPTS OF ARTIFICIAL**  
25 **INSEMINATION OVER THE COURSE OF 1 YEAR FAILING TO RESULT IN PREGNANCY;**  
26 **OR**

27 **(II) THE INFERTILITY IS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OF THE**  
28 **FOLLOWING MEDICAL CONDITIONS OF THE PATIENT:**

29 1. **ENDOMETRIOSIS;**

30 2. **EXPOSURE IN UTERO TO DIETHYLSTILBESTROL,**

1 **COMMONLY KNOWN AS DES;**

2 **3. BLOCKAGE OF, OR SURGICAL REMOVAL OF, ONE OR**  
3 **BOTH FALLOPIAN TUBES (LATERAL OR BILATERAL SALPINGECTOMY); OR**

4 **4. ABNORMAL MALE FACTORS, INCLUDING**  
5 **OLIGOSPERMIA, CONTRIBUTING TO THE INFERTILITY;**

6 **[(4)] (5)** the patient has been unable to attain a successful pregnancy  
7 through a less costly infertility treatment for which coverage is available under the policy  
8 or contract; and

9 **[(5)] (6)** the in vitro fertilization procedures are performed at medical  
10 facilities that conform to applicable guidelines or minimum standards issued by the  
11 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the American Society for  
12 Reproductive Medicine.

13 (e) An entity subject to this section may limit coverage of the benefits for in vitro  
14 fertilization required under this section to three in vitro fertilization attempts per live birth,  
15 not to exceed a maximum lifetime benefit of \$100,000.

16 (f) An entity subject to this section is not responsible for any costs incurred by a  
17 policyholder or subscriber or a dependent of a policyholder or subscriber in obtaining donor  
18 sperm.

19 (g) A denial of coverage for in vitro fertilization benefits required under this  
20 section by an entity subject to this section constitutes an adverse decision under Subtitle  
21 10A of this title.

22 (h) This section may not be construed to require an entity subject to this section  
23 to provide coverage for a treatment or a procedure that would not treat a diagnosed medical  
24 condition of a patient.

25 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the coverage required  
26 under this section conflicts with the bona fide religious beliefs and practices of a religious  
27 organization, on request of the religious organization, an entity subject to this section shall  
28 exclude the coverage otherwise required under this section in a policy or contract with the  
29 religious organization.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all  
31 policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or  
32 after January 1, 2021.

33 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 January 1, 2021.