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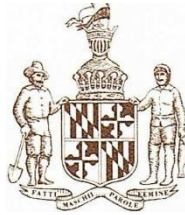
Health and Government Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Health and Minority Health Disparities, Chair

Elder and Long-Term Care

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health



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**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1625- Public Health - Newborn Screening Program - Fees and Core Conditions**

March 17, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee,

**HB1625** modifies the statute regulating the Maryland's Newborn Screening Program to ensure its usefulness and sustainability, by making adjustments to how hereditary conditions and congenital diseases are added for testing. Importantly, it gives needed flexibility to the Secretary in following the recommendation of the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel so decision can be based on the most current science.

Through the Newborn Screening Program, which is administered by the Maryland Department of Health, infants born in the state are screened shortly after birth for serious hereditary and congenital disorders. Early detection allows health care providers to begin treatment quickly, often preventing severe disability, lifelong complications, or even death. The Maryland Advisory Council on Congenital and Hereditary Diseases, including leading experts in the field, reviews and evaluates all request for new additions and advise the Secretary on inclusions based on considerations of multiple factors. The legislation addresses problems that have developed in the two years since automatic incusions were mandated statutorily and discourages inclusion by legislature and the attendant problems.

**HB1625** also updates the testing fees to cover the administrative, laboratory, and follow-up costs associated with screening; by doing so it will ensure that the program remains fully supported and sustainable.

**HB1625** is responsive to an urgent need and I urge a favorable report.

*Terri L. Hill, M.D.*

