

HOUSE BILL 641

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2001 Regular Session
11r1392
CF 11r1192

By: **Delegates Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Mohorovic, Hecht, Kopp, Petzold, McIntosh, Kagan, Mandel, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Pendergrass, R. Baker, Bobo, and Sophocleus**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Right to Breast-Feed**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or
4 private place under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain restrictions on
5 breast-feeding; and generally relating to the right to breast-feed.

6 BY adding to

7 Article - Health - General

8 Section 20-701 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 7. Breast-Feeding"

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2000 Replacement Volume)

11 **Preamble**

12 WHEREAS, More than 2 decades of research have established that breast-fed
13 infants have lower rates of hospital admissions, ear infections, diarrhea, rashes,
14 allergies, and other medical problems than bottle-fed infants; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics states that human milk is
16 made for human infants and meets all their specific nutritional needs; and

17 WHEREAS, Human breast milk contains antibodies from the mother that can
18 help an infant resist infections; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association
20 of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners recommend breast-feeding for as long
21 as possible during a child's first year of life; and

22 WHEREAS, Health experts have stated that increased breast-feeding rates
23 could save infant lives; and

24 WHEREAS, Government and private experts are working to raise the rate of
25 breast-feeding of infants; and

1 WHEREAS, No mother should be made to feel incriminated or socially
2 ostracized for breast-feeding her child; and

3 WHEREAS, The State is interested in the promotion of family values and to
4 that end encourages public acceptance of this basic act of nurture between a mother
5 and her child; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a social and economic benefit for the State in the creation
7 of an atmosphere in which a mother can feel safe and confident about breast-feeding
8 her child; now, therefore,

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

11 **Article - Health - General**

12 **SUBTITLE 7. BREAST-FEEDING.**

13 20-701.

14 (A) A MOTHER MAY BREAST-FEED HER CHILD IN ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
15 LOCATION IN WHICH THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE.

16 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT RESTRICT OR LIMIT THE RIGHT OF A MOTHER TO
17 BREAST-FEED HER CHILD.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT
19 OCTOBER 1, 2001.
20 XyZ