

HOUSE BILL 195

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HB 1035/02 - ENV

2003 Regular Session  
3r1361

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By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Fulton, Haynes, Jones, Menes, Morhaim,  
Murray, and Pendergrass**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disease Prevention - Hepatitis A and B Education and Prevention Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a statewide public information program on hepatitis  
4 A and B education and prevention; providing for the purpose of the program;  
5 requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop and  
6 implement a certain public education and outreach program that includes  
7 certain information about hepatitis A and B; requiring the program to  
8 emphasize measures that can be taken to prevent contracting hepatitis A and B;  
9 requiring the Secretary to make use of certain media outlets, subject to the  
10 provisions of the State budget; requiring the Secretary to establish certain  
11 guidelines for measuring the success of the program; and generally relating to  
12 the hepatitis A and B education and prevention program.

13 BY adding to

14 Article - Health - General  
15 Section 18-1001 through 18-1004 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 10.  
16 Hepatitis A and B Education and Prevention Program"  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is a silent killer largely asymptomatic until  
21 irreversible liver damage occurs; and

22 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A is a foodborne and waterborne disease that accounts  
23 for one-third to one-half of all hepatitis cases in this country and in rare cases, can be  
24 fatal; and

25 WHEREAS, In the United States most persons with hepatitis B acquire the  
26 infection as adolescents or adults; and

27 WHEREAS, Hepatitis is spreading more rapidly among adolescents than any  
28 other age group; and

1 WHEREAS, There are vaccines available to protect individuals from hepatitis  
2 A and B; and

3 WHEREAS, Efforts to vaccinate individuals in the major risk groups have had  
4 limited success; now, therefore,

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

7 **Article - Health - General**

8 SUBTITLE 10. HEPATITIS A AND B EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM.

9 18-1001.

10 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE A STATEWIDE PUBLIC  
11 INFORMATION PROGRAM ON HEPATITIS A AND B EDUCATION AND PREVENTION.

12 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM ON  
13 HEPATITIS A AND B EDUCATION AND PREVENTION IS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF  
14 HEPATITIS IN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

15 18-1002.

16 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC EDUCATION  
17 AND OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT:

18 (1) RAISES AWARENESS OF THE SPREAD OF HEPATITIS A AND B;

19 (2) EDUCATES THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
20 NATURAL HISTORY OF THE VIRUS;

21 (3) PROVIDES INFORMATION ON VACCINATIONS, RISK FACTORS, THE  
22 VALUE OF EARLY DETECTION, AND THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR TREATMENT OF  
23 HEPATITIS A AND B;

24 (4) DISCUSSES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BECOMING INFECTED  
25 WITH HEPATITIS B AND BECOMING INFECTED WITH HIV THROUGH SEXUAL  
26 CONTACT AND THE SHARING OF INFECTED NEEDLES;

27 (5) PROVIDES DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT STATE RESOURCES FOR  
28 OBTAINING HELP TO DETECT, TREAT, AND PREVENT HEPATITIS A AND B; AND

29 (6) PROVIDES THE PROPER TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL HEALTH  
30 DEPARTMENT RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE ADDRESS.

31 (B) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE STATEWIDE INFORMATION  
32 PROGRAM ON HEPATITIS A AND B EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SHALL EMPHASIZE  
33 MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO PREVENT CONTRACTING HEPATITIS A AND B.

1 18-1003.

2 SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE SECRETARY SHALL  
3 MAKE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA OUTLETS THAT WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE  
4 MEANS FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT HEPATITIS A AND B TO THE GENERAL  
5 PUBLIC.

6 18-1004.

7 SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE SECRETARY SHALL  
8 ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
10 effect October 1, 2003.