

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 223 (Senator Hollinger, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Right to Breast-Feed

This bill grants a mother the right to breast-feed her child in any public or private location in which the mother and child are authorized to be, and forbids a person from restricting or limiting the right of a mother to breast-feed her child.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, extensive research documents diverse advantages to infants, mothers, families, and society from breastfeeding. The academy further states that increasing the initiation and duration of breastfeeding is a national health objective.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar bills, SB 434/HB 641, were introduced in the 2001 session. SB 434 passed the Senate and had a hearing in the House Environmental

Matters Committee, but was not reported out of that committee. HB 641 received an unfavorable report in the Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): American Academy of Pediatrics, *Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk (RE9729)*, Volume 100, No. 6, December 1997, pp. 1035-1039; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Legislative Services

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