
By: **Delegates Taylor, Anderson, Benson, Burns, Cane, Conroy, Cryor, Feldman, Gilleland, Gutierrez, Harrison, Haynes, Heller, Howard, Jones, Kaiser, Kelley, King, Kirk, Lawton, Lee, Madaleno, Mandel, Marriott, Moe, Montgomery, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Paige, Parker, Patterson, Petzold, Proctor, Pugh, Ramirez, Rosenberg, Shewell, Stern, F. Turner, V. Turner, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2006
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Prenatal Dietary Supplement**
3 **Distribution Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 establish a program to distribute prenatal multivitamin and mineral dietary
6 supplements to women of a certain age; providing for the purpose of the
7 program; requiring the program to provide certain supplements and certain
8 counseling and information to certain individuals; requiring local health
9 departments to distribute certain supplements and to provide certain counseling
10 and information; requiring the program to be funded in the State budget;
11 authorizing the Department to use money appropriated for a certain federal
12 program and from any other lawful source to fund the program; and generally
13 relating to a prenatal dietary supplement distribution program in the
14 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

15 BY adding to
16 Article - Health - General
17 Section 13-2301 through 13-2303, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
18 "Subtitle 23. Prenatal Dietary Supplement Distribution Program"
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Health - General

2

SUBTITLE 23. PRENATAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

3 13-2301.

4 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE" MEANS WOMEN BETWEEN
5 THE AGES OF 15 AND 45 YEARS OLD WHO QUALIFY FOR THE FEDERAL WOMEN,
6 INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM.

7 13-2302.

8 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE
9 PRENATAL MULTIVITAMIN AND MINERAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS TO WOMEN OF
10 CHILDBEARING AGE.

11 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASES
12 OF NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS AND OTHER BIRTH DEFECTS IN CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

13 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO WOMEN OF
14 CHILDBEARING AGE:

15 (1) PRENATAL MULTIVITAMIN AND MINERAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS
16 THAT CONTAIN THE RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF FOLIC ACID FOR WOMEN OF
17 CHILDBEARING AGE;

18 (2) COUNSELING AND WRITTEN INFORMATION REGARDING THE
19 PROPER USE OF THE SUPPLEMENTS; AND

20 (3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PRENATAL CARE THAT THE
21 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
22 SUBTITLE.

23 (D) LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE PRENATAL
24 DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND PROVIDE THE COUNSELING AND WRITTEN
25 INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

26 13-2303.

27 (A) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

28 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FEDERAL
29 WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM AND FROM ANY OTHER LAWFUL
30 SOURCE TO FUND THE PROGRAM.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2006.