
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~~ Vaughn, and Hubbard**

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 22, 2006

CHAPTER _____

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

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Health - General
18 Section 13-2301 through 13-2303, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
19 "Subtitle 23. ~~Prenatal~~ Dietary Supplement Distribution Program"
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 SUBTITLE 23. ~~PRENATAL~~ DIETARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

5 13-2301.

6 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE" MEANS WOMEN BETWEEN
7 THE AGES OF 15 AND 45 YEARS OLD WHO ~~QUALIFY FOR THE FEDERAL WOMEN,~~
8 ~~INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM~~ HAVE FAMILY INCOMES AT OR BELOW
9 185% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

10 13-2302.

11 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE
12 ~~PRENATAL MULTIVITAMIN~~ ANY APPROPRIATE VITAMIN AND MINERAL DIETARY
13 SUPPLEMENTS TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE.

14 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASES
15 OF NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS AND OTHER BIRTH DEFECTS IN CHILDREN AND TO
16 REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INFANTS BORN WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT IN THE STATE.

17 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO WOMEN OF
18 CHILDBEARING AGE AS APPROPRIATE, BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR
19 INDIVIDUAL NEED:

20 (1) ~~PRENATAL MULTIVITAMIN~~ APPROPRIATE VITAMIN AND MINERAL
21 DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS THAT CONTAIN THE RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF FOLIC ACID
22 FOR WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE;

23 (2) COUNSELING AND WRITTEN INFORMATION REGARDING THE
24 PROPER USE OF THE SUPPLEMENTS; AND

25 (3) ANY OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION ~~REGARDING PRENATAL CARE~~
26 THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF
27 THIS SUBTITLE.

28 ~~(D) LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE PRENATAL~~
29 ~~DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND PROVIDE THE COUNSELING AND WRITTEN~~
30 ~~INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.~~

31 13-2303.

32 ~~(A)~~ SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
33 FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

1 ~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FEDERAL~~
2 ~~WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM AND FROM ANY OTHER LAWFUL~~
3 ~~SOURCE TO FUND THE PROGRAM.~~

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