
By: **Senators Jacobs, Colburn, Greenip, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hooper,
Lawlah, Mooney, Munson, Stoltzfus, and Stone**
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals - Umbilical Cord Blood - Donation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each hospital to offer pregnant patients the option of
4 donating certain umbilical cord blood to a certain cord blood bank with a certain
5 exception; prohibiting the requirement for collection of cord blood by certain
6 hospitals and certain hospital employees directly affiliated with a bona fide
7 religious denomination with certain religious beliefs relating to the transfer of
8 human blood; and generally relating to the donation of umbilical cord blood
9 through hospitals.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 19-308.7
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 19-308.7.

19 (a) Unless it is medically inadvisable, each hospital shall [allow] OFFER a
20 pregnant patient [to arrange for the donation of] THE OPTION OF DONATING the
21 blood extracted from the umbilical cord of the patient's newborn child to a certified
22 public cord blood bank.

23 (b) A patient who agrees to donate cord blood to a public cord blood bank may
24 not be charged for the costs of collecting, storing, or transporting the cord blood.

25 (c) A hospital is not required to collect cord blood if in the professional
26 judgment of a licensed physician the collection of the cord blood would threaten the
27 health of the mother or newborn child.

1 (d) [A] ANY hospital or hospital employee, including a physician, nurse, or
2 other medical staff, THAT IS DIRECTLY AFFILIATED WITH A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS
3 DENOMINATION THAT INCLUDES, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS BELIEFS AND
4 PRACTICES, THE TENET THAT BLOOD TRANSFER IS CONTRARY TO THE MORAL
5 PRINCIPLES THAT THE DENOMINATION CONSIDERS TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF
6 ITS BELIEFS may not be required to collect cord blood [if the collection of cord blood
7 conflicts with the bona fide religious practices and beliefs of the hospital or hospital
8 employee].

9 [(e) This section may not be construed to require a hospital to arrange for the
10 donation of blood extracted from umbilical cords.]

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