

HOUSE BILL 295

J1

8lr1646

By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Benson, Hubbard, Kullen, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, and Riley**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hepatitis C - Inmates - Annual Report**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional
4 Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
5 to submit a certain annual report to certain committees of the General
6 Assembly on hepatitis C; and generally relating to a certain annual report on
7 hepatitis C.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Correctional Services

10 Section 9–613

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (1999 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a viral disease that attacks the liver and can cause
15 lifelong infection, cirrhosis of the liver, cancer, liver failure, and death; and

16 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that there
17 are an estimated 3,900,000 people in the United States who are infected with the
18 hepatitis C virus; and

19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 people die each year from
20 chronic liver disease caused by hepatitis C; and

21 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services advises
22 that approximately 12% of the 1,250 inmates enrolled in chronic care units in
23 Maryland have tested positive for hepatitis C; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis C can be treated with antiviral medications, with
2 success rates of 30–40%; now, therefore,

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

5 **Article – Correctional Services**

6 **9–613.**

7 **ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT, IN**
8 **COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,**
9 **SHALL REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
10 **ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
11 **AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT**
12 **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:**

13 **(1) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF**
14 **THE DEPARTMENT WHO HAVE BEEN TESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR**
15 **HEPATITIS C; AND**

16 **(2) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE**
17 **FOR HEPATITIS C WHO HAVE RECEIVED TREATMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2008.