

SENATE BILL 477

P1

8lr2339

By: **Senator Madaleno**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Dandy–Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus**
3 **Awareness Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the month of May to be
5 “Dandy–Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month”.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – State Government

8 Section 13–503

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The Dandy–Walker Alliance, Inc., is a Maryland nonprofit
13 corporation that works to increase public awareness of the congenital birth defect
14 known as Dandy–Walker Syndrome; and

15 WHEREAS, The causes of Dandy–Walker Syndrome, the most common
16 congenital malformation of the cerebellum, are largely unknown; and

17 WHEREAS, Dandy–Walker Syndrome is difficult to diagnose but may affect as
18 many as 1 in every 5,000 live–born infants; and

19 WHEREAS, Approximately 70 to 90% of patients with Dandy–Walker
20 Syndrome have hydrocephalus, a serious neurological condition characterized by the
21 abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluids in the ventricles of the brain; and

22 WHEREAS, Failure to diagnose Dandy–Walker Syndrome with hydrocephalus
23 in a neonate or a child can cause serious neurological complications; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, While there is no known cure for hydrocephalus, with full diagnosis
2 and treatment, people with hydrocephalus may live full and productive lives; and

3 WHEREAS, All Americans should learn about Dandy–Walker Syndrome and
4 hydrocephalus; and

5 WHEREAS, To increase awareness of Dandy–Walker Syndrome and
6 hydrocephalus, the General Assembly believes that the month of May should be
7 commemorated as Dandy–Walker Syndrome and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month;
8 now, therefore,

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

11 **Article – State Government**

12 **13-503.**

13 **IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS OF**
14 **DANDY–WALKER SYNDROME AND HYDROCEPHALUS, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
15 **PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY EACH YEAR AS DANDY–WALKER SYNDROME**
16 **AND HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS MONTH.**

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