

# SENATE BILL 611

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2lr1220  
CF 2lr3081

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By: **Senators Benson, Klausmeier, and Montgomery**  
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Pregnant Women – Hepatitis B Testing**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an individual attending a woman for pregnancy to  
4 submit to a medical laboratory a blood sample taken from the woman at the  
5 time the individual first examines the woman and, under certain circumstances,  
6 at the time of delivery; requiring the medical laboratory that receives the blood  
7 sample to perform a certain hepatitis B surface antigen test; providing for the  
8 application of this Act; and generally relating to the testing of pregnant women  
9 for hepatitis B.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General  
12 Section 18–310  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 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 **18–310.**

19 **(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A WOMAN WHO OBJECTS TO A**  
20 **STANDARD HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN TEST BECAUSE THE TEST IS**  
21 **AGAINST THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF THE WOMAN.**

22 **(B) (1) THE INDIVIDUAL ATTENDING A WOMAN FOR PREGNANCY**  
23 **SHALL SUBMIT TO A MEDICAL LABORATORY:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(I) A BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM THE WOMAN AT THE**  
2 **TIME THAT THE INDIVIDUAL FIRST EXAMINES THE WOMAN; AND**

3                   **(II) A BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM THE WOMAN AT THE**  
4 **TIME OF DELIVERY IF:**

5                               **1. THE WOMAN DID NOT HAVE PRENATAL SERVICES**  
6 **BEFORE THE TIME OF DELIVERY; OR**

7                               **2. THERE IS NO DOCUMENTATION OF THE**  
8 **HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN STATUS OF THE WOMAN.**

9                   **(2) THE MEDICAL LABORATORY RECEIVING THE BLOOD SAMPLE**  
10 **SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PERFORM A**  
11 **STANDARD HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN TEST THAT IS APPROVED BY THE**  
12 **DEPARTMENT.**

13                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2012.