

# HOUSE BILL 687

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By: **Delegates B. Barnes, Campos, Frush, Jackson, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Religious Exemptions from Immunization Requirements –**  
3 **Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the prohibition against the Department of Health and Mental  
5 Hygiene requiring the immunization of an individual under certain circumstances;  
6 repealing the requirement that the Department adopt rules and regulations for  
7 religious exemptions under a certain provision of law; and generally relating to  
8 religious exemptions from immunization requirements.

9 BY repealing

10 Article – Health – General

11 Section 18–403

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 [18–403.

18 (a) Unless the Secretary declares an emergency or disease epidemic, the  
19 Department may not require the immunization of an individual if:

20 (1) The individual objects to immunization because it conflicts with the  
21 individual's bona fide religious beliefs and practices; or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)    The individual is a minor and the individual's parent or guardian  
2 objects to immunization because it conflicts with the parent or guardian's bona fide  
3 religious beliefs and practices.

4                   (b)    The Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations for religious exemptions  
5 under this section.]

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2015.