

# SENATE BILL 1150

F1, F5, J3

7lr3724

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By: **Senator Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2017

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hearing- or Speech-Impaired Children – Sign Language Instruction for Parents**  
3 **and Guardians**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an individualized education program for a child with a  
5 hearing or speech impairment to include educating the child's parents or guardians  
6 in basic sign language, including by certain methods; requiring that the Maryland  
7 Infants and Toddlers Program include resources for teaching sign language to  
8 certain parents or guardians; requiring the State Department of Education to adopt  
9 certain regulations; altering the name of the universal newborn screening program  
10 to be the universal newborn screening and parental education program; requiring  
11 the program to ensure that the parents or guardians of a newborn with hearing loss  
12 have a basic understanding of sign language for a certain purpose; requiring the  
13 program to include playing of certain pediatric sign language videos in the hospital  
14 and providing certain resources to parents and guardians of newborns with hearing  
15 loss; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain  
16 regulations; and generally relating to sign language instruction for parents and  
17 guardians of children with hearing or speech impairments.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Education

20 Section 8–408.1

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article – Education

25 Section 8–416(a)

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

28 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Education  
 2 Section 8–416(i)  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 6 Article – Health – General  
 7 Section 19–308.5  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Education**

13 **8–408.1.**

14 **(A) THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR A CHILD WITH A**  
 15 **HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENT SHALL INCLUDE EDUCATING THE CHILD’S**  
 16 **PARENTS OR GUARDIANS IN BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE, INCLUDING BY:**

17 **(1) PROVIDING A COURSE IN BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE;**

18 **(2) LENDING DVDS OR OTHER DIGITAL FORMAT TEACHING TOOLS;**  
 19 **AND**

20 **(3) PROVIDING LINKS TO ONLINE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES.**

21 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
 22 **SECTION.**

23 **8–416.**

24 **(a) (1) There is a Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program in the Department.**

25 **(2) (I) The purpose of the Program is to provide a statewide,**  
 26 **community–based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to**  
 27 **eligible infants and toddlers, from birth until the beginning of the school year following a**  
 28 **child’s 4th birthday, and their families.**

29 **(II) FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH HEARING OR SPEECH**  
 30 **IMPAIRMENTS, THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE**  
 31 **RESOURCES FOR TEACHING SIGN LANGUAGE TO THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS,**  
 32 **INCLUDING BY:**

- 1                   **1. PROVIDING A COURSE IN BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE;**  
2                   **2. LENDING DVDS OR OTHER DIGITAL FORMAT**  
3 **TEACHING TOOLS; AND**  
4                   **3. PROVIDING LINKS TO ONLINE INSTRUCTIONAL**  
5 **RESOURCES.**

6           (i)     The Department shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions  
7 of this section.

8   **Article – Health – General**

9 19–308.5.

10           (a)     Each hospital that provides obstetrical services shall establish a universal  
11 newborn hearing screening **AND PARENTAL EDUCATION** program to ensure that:

12                   (1)     All newborns born in the hospital are screened for hearing loss before  
13 discharge; **[and]**

14                   (2)     The results are reported as required under § 13–605 of this article; **AND**

15                   **(3) IF A NEWBORN HAS A HEARING LOSS, THE PARENTS OR**  
16 **GUARDIANS OF THE NEWBORN HAVE A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF SIGN LANGUAGE**  
17 **TO HELP IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE CHILD.**

18           (b)     The universal newborn hearing screening **AND PARENTAL EDUCATION**  
19 program established under this section shall **[consist of at] INCLUDE:**

20                   **(1) AT** least one of the following screening tests:

21                   **[(1)] (I)**     Auditory brain stem response;

22                   **[(2)] (II)**     Otoacoustic emissions; or

23                   **[(3)] (III)**    Another appropriate screening test recommended by the  
24 Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary; **AND**

25                   **(2) (I) THE PLAYING IN THE HOSPITAL OF PEDIATRIC SIGN**  
26 **LANGUAGE VIDEOS THAT TEACH PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF NEWBORNS WITH**  
27 **HEARING LOSS BASIC SIGNS; AND**

1                   **(II) THE PROVISION OF FREE SIGN LANGUAGE RESOURCE**  
2 **GUIDES FOR THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF NEWBORNS WITH HEARING LOSS.**

3                   **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
4 **SECTION.**

5                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2017.