

# HOUSE BILL 716

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CF SB 266

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By: ~~Delegate R. Lewis~~ Delegates R. Lewis, Pendergrass, Bromwell, Angel, Barron, Cullison, Hayes, Hill, Kelly, Kipke, Krebs, McDonough, Metzgar, Miele, Morales, Morgan, Pena-Melnyk, Platt, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample-Hughes, Szeliga, West, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American**  
3 **Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with  
5 the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Maternal and Child Health  
6 Bureau, the Vital Statistics Administration, and interested stakeholders, to conduct  
7 a study regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in  
8 rural areas; requiring the Commission, in conducting the study, to examine certain  
9 factors and make certain recommendations; requiring, on or before a certain date,  
10 the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of  
11 the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Care  
12 Commission and a study of the mortality rates of African American infants and  
13 infants in rural areas.

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

16 (a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of  
17 Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Vital  
18 Statistics Administration, and interested stakeholders, shall conduct a study regarding the  
19 mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the  
2 Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

3 (1) examine factors, beyond the known factors of low birth weight, teen  
4 pregnancy, poor nutrition, and lack of prenatal care, affecting the mortality of  
5 African American infants and infants in rural areas in the United States and in the State;

6 (2) research programs in other countries, states, and localities, including  
7 Baltimore City, that have aimed to reduce the infant mortality rate;

8 (3) make recommendations on methods to reduce the mortality rate of  
9 African American infants and infants in rural areas;

10 (4) make recommendations on ways to use pregnancy navigators or  
11 community health workers to assist pregnant women with the goal of reducing the infant  
12 mortality rate;

13 (5) make legislative recommendations regarding the establishment of a  
14 permanent council for lowering rates of disparity with respect to infant mortality; and

15 (6) make recommendations regarding methods to reduce the costs  
16 associated with low birth weight infants and with infant mortality.

17 (c) On or before ~~June 30~~ November 1, 2019, the Maryland Health Care  
18 Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation  
19 establishing a permanent council on infant mortality in the State, to the Senate ~~Education,~~  
20 ~~Health, and Environmental Affairs~~ Finance Committee and the House Health and  
21 Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government  
22 Article.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2018.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.