

SENATE BILL 266

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8lr1085
CF HB 716

By: **Senators Nathan–Pulliam, Benson, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kelley, McFadden, Ramirez, Robinson, and ~~Young~~ Young, Astle, Feldman, Jennings, Hershey, Klausmeier, Mathias, Middleton, Oaks, Reilly, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2018

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 and interested stakeholders, to
6 conduct a study regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and
7 infants in rural areas; requiring the Commission, in conducting the study, to
8 examine certain factors and make certain recommendations; requiring, on or before
9 a certain date, the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to certain
10 committees of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maryland Health
11 Care Commission and a study of the mortality rates of African American infants and
12 infants in rural areas.

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

15 (a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of
16 Minority Health and Health Disparities and interested stakeholders, shall conduct a study
17 regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2018.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.