

Chapter 449

(House Bill 583)

AN ACT concerning

Health – Maternal Mortality Review Program – Recommendations and Reporting Requirement

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maternal Mortality Review Program, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, to make recommendations to reduce any disparities in the maternal mortality rate; requiring the Secretary of Health to include in a certain annual report regarding the Maternal Mortality Review Program a section on racial disparities that includes certain information; and generally relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section ~~13–1204~~ and 13–1207
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General13–1204.

(a) The Secretary may contract with the Faculty to administer the Maternal Mortality Review Program.

(b) In consultation with the maternal child health committee of a faculty, the Secretary shall develop a system to:

- (1) Identify maternal death cases;
- (2) Review medical records and other relevant data;
- (3) Contact family members and other affected or involved persons to collect additional relevant data;
- (4) Consult with relevant experts to evaluate the records and data collected;
- (5) Make determinations regarding the preventability of maternal deaths;

(6) Develop recommendations for the prevention of maternal deaths; and

(7) Disseminate findings and recommendations to policy makers, health care providers, health care facilities, and the general public.

(c) In accordance with § 4–221 of this article and notwithstanding § 4–224 of this article, the Secretary may provide the Program with a copy of the death certificate of any woman whose death is suspected to have been a maternal death.

(D) THE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW PROGRAM, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES, SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE ANY DISPARITIES IN THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.

13–1207.

(a) On or before December 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit a report on findings, recommendations, and Program actions to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

(b) The Secretary shall include in the report required under subsection (a) of this section [a]:

(1) A summary of any stakeholder meetings held under § 13–1208 of this subtitle during the immediately preceding 12–month period that includes:

[(1)] (I) Stakeholder responses to existing recommendations; and

[(2)] (II) Recommendations from stakeholders that address factors contributing to maternal mortality; **AND**

(2) **A SECTION ON RACIAL DISPARITIES THAT INCLUDES:**

(I) **A COMPARISON OF THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES OF NON–HISPANIC BLACK AND NON–HISPANIC WHITE WOMEN; ~~AND~~**

(II) **DATA ON CHANGES IN THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY;**

(III) **THE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE;**

(IV) **THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH BY RACE;**

(V) THE PERCENTAGE OF MATERNAL DEATHS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY;

(VI) THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE BY RACE;

(VII) A COMPARISON OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATH BY RACE; AND

(VIII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.