

# HOUSE BILL 580

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CF 0lr1294

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By: **Frederick County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Biosafety Level 3 Laboratories**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop and make  
4 available a certain form; requiring certain biosafety level 3 (BSL–3) laboratories to  
5 report certain information to the Department on or before a certain date each year;  
6 requiring the Department to report, on or before a certain date each year, the number  
7 and location of the laboratories, in total and by local jurisdiction, to the Maryland  
8 Emergency Management Agency and certain officials in each local jurisdiction in the  
9 State and the total number of the laboratories to the Governor and the General  
10 Assembly; providing that, except as provided under certain provisions of this Act,  
11 certain information is confidential and not subject to inspection under certain  
12 provisions of law; requiring that certain information be made available if requested  
13 by certain entities and in certain proceedings; requiring that certain activities be  
14 considered ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous; providing that certain  
15 BSL–3 laboratories are strictly liable for certain damages under certain  
16 circumstances; requiring the Department to develop a strategy for a certain purpose;  
17 defining a certain term; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act;  
18 and generally relating to biosafety level 3 (BSL–3) laboratories.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Health – General

21 Section 17–701 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. Biosafety Level 3 (BSL–3)  
22 Laboratories”

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

27 **Article – Health – General**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **SUBTITLE 7. BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 (BSL-3) LABORATORIES.**

2   **17-701.**

3           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BSL-3 LABORATORY” MEANS A LABORATORY**  
4 **DESIGNATED AS A BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 (BSL-3) LABORATORY BY THE U.S.**  
5 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE**  
6 **CONTROL AND PREVENTION, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, BIOSAFETY IN**  
7 **MICROBIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL LABORATORIES, AS APPLICABLE, BASED ON:**

8                   **(1) USAGE OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS THAT MAY CAUSE SERIOUS OR**  
9 **POTENTIALLY LETHAL DISEASE AFTER INHALATION, INGESTION, OR ABSORPTION;**  
10 **AND**

11                   **(2) REQUIRED BIOCONTAINMENT PRECAUTIONS.**

12           **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO EACH BSL-3 LABORATORY IN THE STATE**  
13 **THAT:**

14                   **(1) DOES NOT WORK WITH FEDERALLY REGULATED BIOLOGICAL**  
15 **SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS OR THEIR PRODUCTS; AND**

16                   **(2) (i) IS A COMMERCIAL OR FOR-PROFIT LABORATORY;**

17                                   **(ii) IS OWNED BY OR IS PART OF A TEACHING HOSPITAL OR AN**  
18 **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; OR**

19                                   **(iii) IS A PRIVATELY FUNDED BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**  
20 **LABORATORY.**

21           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAKE AVAILABLE A**  
22 **STANDARDIZED FORM FOR A BSL-3 LABORATORY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION TO**  
23 **USE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS**  
24 **SECTION.**

25           **(D) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 30 EACH YEAR, EACH BSL-3 LABORATORY**  
26 **SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT:**

27                   **(1) THE ADDRESS OF THE LABORATORY;**

28                   **(2) THE NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF A**  
29 **CONTACT PERSON FOR THE LABORATORY; AND**

30                   **(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO**

1 DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE LABORATORY.

2 (E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
3 REPORT TO:

4 (1) THE MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND THE  
5 HEALTH OFFICER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS OF EACH LOCAL  
6 JURISDICTION IN THE STATE THE NUMBER AND LOCATION, IN TOTAL AND BY LOCAL  
7 JURISDICTION, OF BSL-3 LABORATORIES SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION; AND

8 (2) THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE  
9 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF  
10 BSL-3 LABORATORIES SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION.

11 (F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION  
12 AND SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT  
13 COLLECTS FROM BSL-3 LABORATORIES SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION IS  
14 CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION UNDER THE PUBLIC  
15 INFORMATION ACT.

16 (2) ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT COLLECTS FROM BSL-3  
17 LABORATORIES SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IF  
18 REQUESTED BY THE BSL-3 LABORATORY'S INSURANCE CARRIER OR IN A LEGAL  
19 PROCEEDING.

20 (G) (1) ACTIVITY OF A BSL-3 LABORATORY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION  
21 THAT FAILS TO REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF  
22 THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED ULTRAHAZARDOUS AND ABNORMALLY  
23 DANGEROUS.

24 (2) A BSL-3 LABORATORY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION THAT FAILS TO  
25 REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IS  
26 STRICTLY LIABLE FOR DAMAGES FOR ANY INJURY, DEATH, OR LOSS TO PERSON OR  
27 PROPERTY THAT IS CAUSED BY THE BSL-3 LABORATORY.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

29 (a) The Maryland Department of Health shall develop a strategy to attempt to  
30 identify biosafety level 3 laboratories that are subject to Section 1 of this Act for the purpose  
31 of notifying the laboratories of the requirements of this Act.

32 (b) The strategy may rely on the list of possible laboratories used by the 2013  
33 Workgroup on Biocontainment Laboratory Oversight convened by the Maryland  
34 Department of Health, information available from biotechnology councils and scientific  
35 groups, information available from local government agencies, and other sources that may

1 help to identify biosafety level 3 laboratories subject to Section 1 of this Act.

2           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
3 October 1, 2020.