

SENATE BILL 820

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4lr2492

By: **Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals – Care of Infants After Discharge**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a hospital to take certain actions relating to the care of infants
4 before the hospital discharges an infant, including providing oral and written
5 instructions to the parent or legal guardian on how to provide a safe sleep
6 environment and providing a list of resources available for an infant’s parent or legal
7 guardian; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with local
8 health officers, to develop a certain list of resources available for an infant’s parent
9 or legal guardian; and generally relating to the care of infants after discharge from
10 a hospital.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 19–308.10
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **19–308.10.**

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT” MEANS, AS DESCRIBED
21 IN THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS POLICY STATEMENTS, AN
22 ENVIRONMENT THAT REDUCES THE RISK OF SLEEP–RELATED INFANT DEATHS AND
23 IN WHICH A NEWBORN:

24 (1) SLEEPS IN A SUPINE POSITION;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) SLEEPS ON A FIRM, FLAT SLEEP SURFACE;**

2 **(3) SLEEPS IN A BASSINET, CRIB, OR PORTABLE CRIB;**

3 **(4) ROOM SHARES WITHOUT BED SHARING;**

4 **(5) AVOIDS SOFT BEDDING;**

5 **(6) AVOIDS OVERHEATING; AND**

6 **(7) IS NOT EXPOSED TO SMOKE.**

7 **(B) (1) BEFORE A HOSPITAL DISCHARGES AN INFANT INTO THE CARE OF**
8 **A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, THE HOSPITAL SHALL PROVIDE TO THE PARENT OR**
9 **LEGAL GUARDIAN ORAL AND WRITTEN:**

10 **(I) INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PROVIDE A SAFE SLEEP**
11 **ENVIRONMENT; AND**

12 **(II) INFORMATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING**
13 **THAT THE INFANT HAS A SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT AND THE RISKS OF AN UNSAFE**
14 **SLEEP ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING SUFFOCATION AND SUDDEN INFANT DEATH.**

15 **(2) THE ORAL INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I)**
16 **OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE SUPPLEMENTED BY AN INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO.**

17 **(3) EACH HOSPITAL SHALL PUBLISH IN A CONSPICUOUS MANNER ON**
18 **THE HOSPITAL'S WEBSITE THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED TO A PARENT OR LEGAL**
19 **GUARDIAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

20 **(C) (1) BEFORE DISCHARGING AN INFANT, A HOSPITAL SHALL:**

21 **(I) ASK THE INFANT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO**
22 **DESCRIBE THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE INFANT WILL BE PUT TO SLEEP AT**
23 **HOME; AND**

24 **(II) OBTAIN WRITTEN VERIFICATION FROM THE PARENT OR**
25 **LEGAL GUARDIAN THAT CONFIRMS THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**
26 **UNDERSTANDS THE INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER**
27 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

28 **(2) THE HOSPITAL SHALL PROVIDE A LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

1 IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN RESIDES FOR THE
2 PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO OBTAIN THE ITEMS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A
3 SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT FOR THE INFANT.

4 (D) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS,
5 SHALL MAINTAIN A LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PARENTS AND LEGAL
6 GUARDIANS IN THE APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF EACH HOSPITAL TO OBTAIN
7 THE ITEMS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT FOR AN INFANT.

8 SECTION 2 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2024.