SENATE BILL 676

J1, J3

5lr3277
CF HB 1380

By: **Senator Gile**
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 11, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Health Care Facilities – Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers –**
3   **Perinatal Care Standards**

4   FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, <u>in coordination with</u>
5   <u>the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems,</u> to adopt
6   regulations establishing minimum perinatal care standards for certain hospitals
7   that meet or exceed the Maryland Perinatal System Standards; requiring certain
8   hospitals and freestanding birthing centers, as a condition of licensure, to comply
9   with certain minimum perinatal care standards; and generally relating to standards
10   of care for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12   Article – Health – General
13   Section 19–319(a) and 19–3B–02(a) and (b)
14   Annotated Code of Maryland
15   (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17   Article – Health – General
18   Section 19–319(j) and 19–3B–03(a)(1)(ii)9.
19   Annotated Code of Maryland
20   (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22   Article – Health – General

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
     [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
     <u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.
     ~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by
     amendment.

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1   Section 19–3B–03(a)(1)(ii)8. and 9.
2   Annotated Code of Maryland
3   (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

7   19–319.

8   (a)   To qualify for a license, an applicant and the hospital or related institution to
9   be operated shall meet the requirements of this section.

10   **(J)   (1)   THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE MARYLAND
11   INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS, SHALL ADOPT
12   REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING MINIMUM PERINATAL CARE STANDARDS THAT MEET
13   OR EXCEED THE MARYLAND PERINATAL SYSTEM STANDARDS FOR EACH HOSPITAL
14   THAT PROVIDES OBSTETRICAL SERVICES.**

15   **(2)   EACH HOSPITAL THAT PROVIDES OBSTETRICAL SERVICES SHALL
16   COMPLY WITH THE PERINATAL CARE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE
17   REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AS A
18   CONDITION OF LICENSURE.**

19   19–3B–02.

20   (a)   A freestanding ambulatory care facility may not operate in the State unless
21   the Secretary has granted the facility a license.

22   (b)   The Secretary shall issue a license to an applicant that meets the
23   requirements of this subtitle and all applicable regulations adopted by the Secretary.

24   19–3B–03.

25   (a)   (1)   After consultation with representatives of payors, health care
26   practitioners, and freestanding ambulatory care facilities, the Secretary shall by regulation
27   establish:

28   (ii)   Standards to ensure quality of care and patient safety that shall
29   include:

30   8.   The use of ultrasound imaging in a freestanding birthing
31   center; **[and]**

1 **9. MINIMUM PERINATAL CARE STANDARDS FOR A**
2 **FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER THAT MEET OR EXCEED THE MARYLAND**
3 **PERINATAL SYSTEM STANDARDS THAT A FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTER SHALL**
4 **MEET AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE; AND**

5 **[**9.**] 10.** Any other procedures that the Secretary considers
6 necessary for quality of care and patient safety.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of
8 Health shall adopt the regulations required under §§ 19–319(j)(1) and 19–3B–03(a)(1)(ii)9
9 of the Heath – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, on or before October 1,
10 2026.

11 SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.