

HOUSE BILL 1537

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By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Newborn Screening Program – Metachromatic Leukodystrophy**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that the Maryland Department of Health’s newborn
4 screening system include screening for metachromatic leukodystrophy; and
5 generally relating to newborn screening.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Health – General
8 Section 13–111
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Health – General**

14 13–111.

15 (a) The Department shall establish a coordinated statewide system for screening
16 all newborn infants in the State for certain hereditary and congenital disorders associated
17 with severe problems of health or development, except when the parent or guardian of the
18 newborn infant objects.

19 (b) Except as provided in § 13–112 of this subtitle, the Department’s public health
20 laboratory is the sole laboratory authorized to perform tests on specimens from newborn
21 infants collected to screen for hereditary and congenital disorders as determined under
22 subsection (d)(2) of this section.

23 (c) The system for newborn screening shall include:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) Laboratory testing and the reporting of test results; [and]

2 (2) Follow-up activities to facilitate the rapid identification and treatment
3 of an affected child; AND

4 (3) **SCREENING FOR METACHROMATIC LEUKODYSTROPHY.**

5 (d) In consultation with the State Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital
6 Disorders, the Department shall:

7 (1) Establish protocols for a health care provider to obtain and deliver test
8 specimens to the Department's public health laboratory;

9 (2) Determine the screening tests that the Department's public health
10 laboratory is required to perform;

11 (3) Maintain a coordinated statewide system for newborn screening that
12 carries out the purpose described in subsection (c) of this section that includes:

13 (i) Communicating the results of screening tests to the health care
14 provider of the newborn infant;

15 (ii) Locating newborn infants with abnormal test results;

16 (iii) Sharing newborn screening information between hospitals,
17 health care providers, treatment centers, and laboratory personnel;

18 (iv) Delivering needed clinical, diagnostic, and treatment
19 information to health care providers, parents, and caregivers; and

20 (v) Notifying parents and guardians of newborn infants that
21 laboratories other than the Department's public health laboratory are authorized to
22 perform postscreening confirmatory or diagnostic tests on newborn infants for hereditary
23 and congenital disorders; and

24 (4) Adopt regulations that set forth the standards and requirements for
25 newborn screening for hereditary and congenital disorders that are required under this
26 subtitle, including:

27 (i) Performing newborn screening tests;

28 (ii) Coordinating the reporting, follow-up, and treatment activities
29 with parents, caregivers, and health care providers; and

30 (iii) Establishing fees for newborn screening that do not exceed an
31 amount sufficient to cover the administrative, laboratory, and follow-up costs associated
32 with the performance of screening tests under this subtitle.

1 (e) (1) (i) The Department shall screen for each core condition listed in the
2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

3 (ii) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Department
4 shall implement testing for a core condition within 1 year and 6 months after the core
5 condition is added to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

6 (iii) 1. If the Department is unable to implement testing within 1
7 year and 6 months after a core condition is added to the Recommended Uniform Screening
8 Panel due to a delay in the procurement of equipment or supplies needed to implement the
9 testing, the Department shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House
10 Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
11 Government Article, within 1 year and 3 months after the addition of the core condition to
12 the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel and every 3 months thereafter until the
13 testing for the core condition is implemented.

14 2. A report required under subparagraph 1 of this
15 subparagraph shall include the reason for the delay and the anticipated timeline for
16 implementation.

17 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Health
18 and Human Services issues federal recommendations on critical congenital heart disease
19 screening of newborns, the Department shall adopt the federal screening recommendations.

20 (3) The Department may screen for any condition recommended by the
21 Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary.

22 (f) (1) The Secretary shall pay all fees collected under the provisions of this
23 subtitle to the Comptroller.

24 (2) The Comptroller shall distribute the fees to the Newborn Screening
25 Program Fund established under § 13–113 of this subtitle.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2026.