

# SENATE BILL 348

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By: Senator Jackson

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals and Freestanding Birthing Centers – High-Risk Pregnancies –**  
3 **Communication After Discharge**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the time period after the delivery of a newborn following a  
5 high-risk pregnancy in which a hospital or freestanding birthing center must call  
6 the birthing parent to evaluate the birthing parent's status and, as necessary,  
7 provide certain information; and generally relating to hospitals and freestanding  
8 birthing centers and high-risk pregnancies.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article – Health – General

11 Section 19–310.5 and 19–3B–03.1

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 19–310.5.

18 (a) If a newborn is delivered in a hospital following a high-risk pregnancy, the  
19 hospital shall:

20 (1) Complete a postpartum infant and maternal referral form and submit  
21 the form to the local health department for the county in which the birthing parent resides;

22 (2) Provide to the birthing parent resources and information specific to the  
23 circumstances of the birthing parent, including information regarding the risks, signs,  
24 preventive measures, and treatment needs for postpartum complications, including

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 cardiovascular conditions, chronic disease, substance misuse, and mental health  
2 conditions; and

3 (3) Call the birthing parent at least 24, but not later than [48] **72**, hours  
4 after discharging the parent to evaluate the parent's status and, as necessary, provide  
5 information about postpartum complications.

6 (b) On or before October 1 each year, each local health department shall submit  
7 to the Department a report that includes the number and type of referrals made based on  
8 the referral forms submitted to the local health department in accordance with subsection  
9 (a)(1) of this section.

10 19-3B-03.1.

11 (a) If a newborn is delivered in a freestanding birthing center following a  
12 high-risk pregnancy, the freestanding birthing center shall:

13 (1) Complete a postpartum infant and maternal referral form and submit  
14 the form to the local health department for the county in which the birthing parent resides;

15 (2) Provide to the birthing parent resources and information specific to the  
16 circumstances of the birthing parent, including information regarding the risks, signs,  
17 preventive measures, and treatment needs for postpartum complications, including  
18 cardiovascular conditions, chronic disease, substance misuse, and mental health  
19 conditions; and

20 (3) Call the birthing parent at least 24, but not later than [48] **72**, hours  
21 after discharging the parent to evaluate the parent's status and, as necessary, provide  
22 information about postpartum complications.

23 (b) On or before October 1 each year, each local health department shall submit  
24 to the Department a report that includes the number and type of referrals made based on  
25 the referral forms submitted to the local health department in accordance with subsection  
26 (a)(1) of this section.

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