

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 348

(Senator Jackson)

Finance

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

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This bill alters the time by which a hospital or freestanding birthing center must call a birthing parent following delivery after a high-risk pregnancy. Not later than 72 (rather than 48) hours after discharge, a hospital or freestanding birthing center must call the birthing parent to evaluate the parent's status and, as necessary, provide information about postpartum complications.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** If a newborn is delivered in a hospital or a freestanding birthing center following a high-risk pregnancy, the hospital or freestanding birthing center must (1) complete a postpartum infant and maternal referral form and submit the form to the local health department where the birthing parent resides; (2) provide the birthing parent with resources and information specific to their circumstances, including information regarding the risks, signs, preventive measures, and treatment needs for postpartum complications, including cardiovascular conditions, chronic disease, substance misuse, and mental health conditions; and (3) call the birthing parent at least 24 hours, but not later than

48 hours, after discharging the parent to evaluate the parent's status and, as necessary, provide information about postpartum complications.

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## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2026

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