

SB 820_CareInfantAfterDischarge_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 820- Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge

Position: *Support with Sponsor Amendments*

March 8, 2024

Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 820. Maryland's 32 birthing hospitals deliver more than 67,000 babies each year and are committed to a safe delivery, hospital stay, and discharge home.

Maryland's hospitals support the goals of SB 820 and acknowledge the life-saving role that safe sleep practices have in preventing infant mortality. As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland hospitals provide safe sleep education before discharge.

MHA worked closely with the bill sponsor and stakeholders, including the Baltimore City Health Department, to develop consensus amendments for SB 820. These amendments ensure safe sleep education is provided before an infant is discharged from the hospital while allowing flexibility to choose the method for delivering the information and confirming receipt. As birthing hospitals adopt new technologies to improve patient experience, such as education via personal devices like tablets, permitting greater latitude allows for innovation and improved retention.

We appreciate the bill sponsor raising awareness of this important issue and look forward to continued partnership to promote safe sleep environments and reduce infant mortality.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report on SB 820 with the sponsor's consensus amendments.

For more information, please contact:

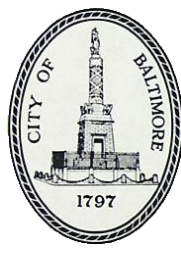
Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst, Government Affairs

Jkrienke@mhaonline.org

SB0820-FIN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB0820

March 8, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 820 – Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 820. This is a consensus bill that has been developed by the sponsor in collaboration with the BCA, Maryland hospitals, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other stakeholders. Notably, the Administration also supports amendments to be introduced by the sponsor.

SB 820 requires that Maryland's birthing hospitals provide birthing parents/guardians with written and verbal education prior to postpartum discharge about how to provide a safe sleep environment for their babies, as well as information about the risks of not providing a safe sleep environment. This education will be in accordance with current recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Hospitals will also be required to provide birthing parents/guardians with a list of resources generated by local health departments to help parents provide a safe sleep environment (e.g., resources for accessing low- or no-cost cribs). Local health departments are aware of this requirement, which should not present an administrative burden. This bill will ensure our hospitals implement simple, cost-effective measures proven to save infant lives.ⁱ

In 2021 (the latest year for which data is available), **50 babies in Maryland died in their sleep due to known or suspected accidental suffocation**. Sleep-related deaths (familarly referred to as "SIDS") are the second leading cause of infant death in Baltimore City, accounting for 30% of all infant deaths in 2021, and the third leading cause of infant death in Maryland. Data from the Baltimore City Child Fatality Review, which conducts in-depth reviews of every sleep-related infant death in the city, show that in 100% of the city's 68 sleep-related infant deaths from 2018 to 2022, the baby was placed to sleep in an unsafe environment. Every death was determined to be likely preventable.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends proven methods to reduce the risk of sleep-related infant deaths.ⁱⁱ All families must be given information about how to provide a safe sleep environment for their baby; this education saves lives and prevents unspeakable tragedy. Baltimore City's B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB) initiative has shown that saturating a community with information on safe sleep can prevent these deaths – in particular, through promoting the "ABCDs of Safe Sleep:" that babies should be put to sleep **A**lone, on their **B**acks, in **C**ribs, in a smoke-free environment (**D**on't Smoke).ⁱⁱⁱ

Hospitals play an essential role in ensuring that families understand the need to practice the ABCDs of Safe Sleep from the moment a baby is discharged home.ⁱ Over the past 15 years, BHB has worked collaboratively with all birthing hospitals in Baltimore City to implement postpartum safe sleep education efforts as outlined in this bill. However, due to challenges including staff and leadership turnover and competing priorities such as those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals' implementation of safe sleep education practices has been inconsistent. Baltimore City Child Fatality Review has found that **there was no safe sleep education documented by the birthing hospital in 57% of deaths reviewed** from 2018 to 2022.

This bill requires no financial or material outlay by Maryland's hospitals for compliance. Evidence-based guidelines from the AAP and free educational materials based on those guidelines are readily available free of charge through the Maryland Department of Health. A favorable report on this bill will ensure that with minimal effort, hospitals will help prevent unnecessary infant deaths in our state.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 820.

ⁱ Krugman, S. & Cumpsty-Fowler, C. (2018). A Hospital-Based Initiative to Reduce Postdischarge Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths. *Hosp Pediatr* (2018) 8 (8): 443–449. <https://doi.org/10.1542/hpeds.2017-0211>

ⁱⁱ Moon, R., Carlin, R., & Hand, I. (2022). Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment. *American Academy of Pediatrics. PEDIATRICS* Volume 150, number 1, 2022:e2022057990. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-057990>

ⁱⁱⁱ Baltimore City Health Department. (2024). B'more for Healthy Babies. Retrieved from <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/maternal-and-child-health/bmore-healthy-babies>

SB 820_Hospitals – Care of Infants After Discharge

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 820

Bill Title: Hospitals – Care of Infants After Discharge

Hearing Date: March 8, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee:

I am writing to request a **favorable vote** for **Senate Bill 820**, which mandates hospitals to provide instructions on creating a safe sleep environment for infants prior to discharge. This bill represents a crucial step forward in safeguarding the well-being of Maryland's youngest citizens.

SB 820 outlines essential requirements for hospitals, ensuring that before discharging an infant, parents or legal guardians receive both oral and written instructions on the importance of and methods for establishing a safe sleep environment. Additionally, hospitals must establish details about the intended sleep environment at home and obtain written confirmation of the understanding of provided instructions. Additionally, hospitals are mandated to provide a list of local resources available to procure items necessary for ensuring a safe sleep environment for infants, as maintained by the Maryland Department of Health in consultation with local health officers.

The fiscal summary indicates a modest increase in MDH general fund expenditures, reflecting the costs associated with part-time staff to maintain a list of safe sleep environment resources. While the bill entails a financial commitment, the investment pales in comparison to the potential lives saved through preventive measures against sleep-related infant deaths.

The bill defines a "safe sleep environment" in alignment with AAP policy statements, encompassing essential practices such as supine sleeping, avoidance of soft bedding, and room sharing without bed sharing. By disseminating this information effectively, hospitals can

empower parents and guardians to mitigate risks associated with unsafe sleep practices, including suffocation and sudden infant death.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support **SB 820**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory V. McCray
45th District

SB 820 - FIN - MDH- LOSWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: FWA



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 8, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 820 - Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge - Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 820 – Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge. SB 820 mandates hospitals to provide certain oral and written instructions on how to provide a safe sleep environment. Furthermore, this bill requires hospitals to ask parents and guardians if they can provide a safe sleep environment. If a parent or guardian expresses that they cannot provide a safe sleep environment, SB 820 requires the hospital to provide a list of resources to obtain the equipment necessary to provide a safe sleep environment.

In 2021, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) was the leading cause of postneonatal infant deaths in Maryland, accounting for 45 deaths. Sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID), including SIDS, accidental suffocation, and unknown causes, increased by nearly 18% from 58 in 2020 to 74 in 2021.¹ Many SUID deaths are related to unsafe sleep environments and practices.² In their most recent Safe Infant Sleep Recommendations, the American Academy of Pediatrics stated that it is “essential that physicians, nonphysician clinicians, hospital staff, and child care providers endorse and model safe infant sleep guidelines from the beginning of pregnancy.”³ Currently, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, and Michigan have passed legislation requiring birthing hospitals to provide anticipatory guidance on safe sleep practices and environments to parents and guardians prior to discharge.⁴ The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires hospitals to have written policies to address infant safety issues such as safe sleep. However, the regulations do not require hospitals to share this resource with parents or guardians.⁵ This bill would provide the standardization at the hospital-level necessary to begin addressing infant safe sleep shortly after birth for the majority of newborns in Maryland.

¹ 2021 Vital Statistics Administration Infant Mortality Report
https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Documents/Reports%20and%20Data/Infant%20Mortality/InfantMortalityAnnualReport_2021_Final.pdf

² Figure 14, 2020 Child Fatality Review Report

https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/FHA/HG5-704%28b%29%2812%29_2020.pdf

³ Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/1/e2022057990/188304/Sleep-Related-Infant-Deaths-Updated-2022?autologincheck=redirected>

⁴ Bechtel K, Gawel M, Vincent GA, Violano P. Impact of statewide safe sleep legislation on hospital practices and rates of sudden unexpected infant deaths. *Inj Epidemiol.* 2020;7(Suppl 1):22. Published 2020 Jun 12. doi:10.1186/s40621-020-00247-0

⁵ COMAR 30.08.12.15 <https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/30.08.12.15.aspx>

Based on a recent survey conducted by the Department, all local health departments (LHDs) report distributing printed infant safe sleep materials to program participants, and a combination of durable equipment such as cribs, portable cribs, educational onesies, and safe sleep educational videos. The Department provides grants to LHDs to distribute these materials and equipment through Babies Born Healthy (BBH) and Surveillance and Quality Improvement (SQI) programs. BBH and SQI support perinatal care coordination activities, and infant and child fatality review and prevention activities, respectively.

The Department proposes two amendments to the bill. The first amendment will require hospital staff to connect parents or guardians who cannot provide a safe sleep environment with their LHD, a local agency, or a community organization that can supply the necessary equipment, such as a crib, portable crib, or bassinet, prior to discharge. This will ensure that families are not only aware of resources that can aid in providing a safe sleep environment but can also access them. Additionally, the Department suggests amending the current bill language to remove the requirement for hospital staff to obtain written verification from parents and guardians to reduce administrative burden.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 820
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO.1

On page 2, in line 20, strike “:”.

On page 2, in line 21, strike “(I)”.

On page 2, in line 23, strike “; AND”.

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 24 through 27, inclusive.

Rationale: Removing the requirement for hospital staff to obtain written verification from parents and guardians will reduce administrative burden.

AMENDMENT NO.2

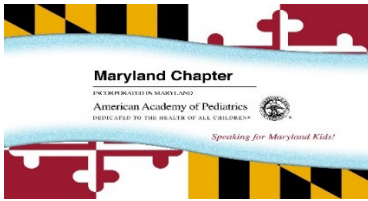
On page 2 and 3, strike beginning with “PROVIDE” in line 28 on page 2 down through “GUARDIAN” in line 2 on page 3 and substitute “CONNECT THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WITH THEIR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR A LOCAL AGENCY”.

Rationale: This amendment will ensure that families can also access the resources necessary to provide a safe sleep environment.

SB0820_FWA_MDAAP_Hospitals - Care of Infants After

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FWA



TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cory V. McCray

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: March 8, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 820 – *Hospitals – Care of Infants After Discharge*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for Senate Bill 820.

Senate Bill 820 requires hospitals to provide education and information to families regarding “safe sleep practices” and the importance of providing a “safe sleep” environment for infants prior to discharge. The requirements of Senate Bill 820 do not replace the need for continued education and outreach on safe sleep practices after discharge throughout the first year of life. However, starting that conversation prior to discharge, including providing information on resources available after discharge, will enhance the likelihood that the parents/guardians and other family members will adopt safe sleep practices from day 1 after discharge. Early adoption of safe sleep practices will significantly decrease the likelihood of preventable infant deaths from unsafe sleep practices.

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), is the leading cause of injury death in infancy. Sleep is a big challenge for families with babies, but following safe sleep recommendations can prevent many SUID fatalities. The rate of sleep-related infant deaths declined significantly in the 1990s after the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and others recommended that babies be placed on their backs to sleep, but rates have since plateaued, and SIDS remains the leading cause of post-neonatal mortality. Black and Native American/Alaska Native infants die at rates more than double that of white babies. The AAP is committed to helping guide conversations about safe sleep with families, with the objective of making safe infant sleep the norm.

The amendments that have been offered by the sponsor provide practical modifications to the bill that will enhance its effective implementation. The amendments also recognize the need to continue to provide resources and education on safe sleep practices throughout the first year of life by convening relevant stakeholders to identify avenues to enhance patient education about safe sleep practices and available resources. With the amendments noted, MDAAP urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000