

STEPHANIE SMITH
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Appropriations Committee

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Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 307
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3486
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486
Stephanie.Smith@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1076 Higher Education Institutions- Over-the Counter Contraception- Access and Reporting

Hearing: March 3, 2026, 1:00pm

Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Anne Kaiser

Appropriations

Chair Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison

Health

House Bill 1076 - Higher Education Institutions - Over-the-Counter Contraception – Access and Reporting. HB 1076 is follow-up legislation to my 2023 and 2024 bills on providing access to over-the-counter birth control on public 4-year and community college campuses. As a result of these bills, Maryland campuses are required to consult with students in the development and implementation of an access plan. Most campuses have implemented the law by installing wellness vending machines stocked with over-the-counter birth control and other common products such as lip balm, ibuprofen, and COVID tests.

House Bill 1076 is clarifying legislation to help the Maryland Higher Education Commission manage implementation of our existing law by:

- **Providing Consistent Reporting Requirements:** We already have an annual reporting requirement for community colleges in current law. This bill extends that reporting requirement to public four-year institutions and consolidates reporting requirements for all campuses into a single section of the Code; and
- **Clarifying Access Requirements:** The bill clarifies that community colleges must provide access to all forms of over-the-counter birth control. Our existing law governing four-year

campuses is clearer in this regard. Over-the-counter birth control includes condoms, emergency contraception, and a daily birth control pill called “Opill.” All these methods have been approved for over-the-counter use by the Food and Drug Administration.

Maryland campuses have already made significant progress in expanding access to over-the-counter birth control. This progress is the result of a public-private partnership among the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Maryland Commission for Women, and the American Society for Emergency Contraception. Their collaborative efforts have resulted in:

- An in-person workshop on providing access to over-the-counter contraception in June 2025
- Ongoing outreach and technical assistance from the American Society for Emergency Contraception regarding over-the-counter vending machines
- Implementation grants of up to \$10,000 awarded to ten community colleges through an investment from the Straus Foundation

Maryland has set the trend for campus access to over-the-counter contraception nationwide. The number of campuses providing access through vending machines has grown from 17 campuses in nine states to 150 campuses in 30 states.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB1076.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Delegate Stephanie Smith