

HOUSE BILL 716

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CF SB 266

By: **Delegate R. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American**
3 **Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with
5 the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and interested stakeholders, to
6 conduct a study regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and
7 infants in rural areas; requiring the Commission, in conducting the study, to
8 examine certain factors and make certain recommendations; requiring, on or before
9 a certain date, the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to certain
10 committees of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maryland Health
11 Care Commission and a study of the mortality rates of African American infants and
12 infants in rural areas.

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

15 (a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of
16 Minority Health and Health Disparities and interested stakeholders, shall conduct a study
17 regarding the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas.

18 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the
19 Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

20 (1) examine factors, beyond the known factors of low birth weight, teen
21 pregnancy, poor nutrition, and lack of prenatal care, affecting the mortality of
22 African American infants and infants in rural areas in the United States and in the State;

23 (2) research programs in other countries, states, and localities, including
24 Baltimore City, that have aimed to reduce the infant mortality rate;

25 (3) make recommendations on methods to reduce the mortality rate of

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 African American infants and infants in rural areas;

2 (4) make recommendations on ways to use pregnancy navigators or
3 community health workers to assist pregnant women with the goal of reducing the infant
4 mortality rate;

5 (5) make legislative recommendations regarding the establishment of a
6 permanent council for lowering rates of disparity with respect to infant mortality; and

7 (6) make recommendations regarding methods to reduce the costs
8 associated with low birth weight infants and with infant mortality.

9 (c) On or before June 30, 2019, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall
10 report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation establishing a
11 permanent council on infant mortality in the State, to the Senate Education, Health, and
12 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations
13 Committee in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2018.