

SENATE BILL 445

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CF HB 247

By: **Senators Klausmeier, Benson, Eckardt, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2019

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Surgical Birth Rate – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with
4 the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Vital Statistics Administration, and
5 interested stakeholders, to conduct a study regarding the surgical birth rate in the
6 State; requiring that the stakeholders consulted during the study include certain
7 persons; requiring the Commission to examine certain matters, research certain
8 programs, and make certain recommendations; requiring the Commission to report
9 its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on
10 or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study of the surgical birth rate
11 in the State.

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

13 That:

14 (a) (1) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the
15 Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Vital Statistics Administration, and interested
16 stakeholders, shall conduct a study regarding the surgical birth rate in the State.

17 (2) The stakeholders consulted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
18 include:

19 (i) maternal health practitioners;

20 (ii) representatives of the Maryland Hospital Association;

21 (iii) maternal health consumer advocates; and

22 (iv) any other stakeholders the Maryland Health Care Commission
23 determines necessary.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a)(1) of this section, the
2 Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

3 (1) examine factors contributing to the State's surgical birth rate, including
4 the rate of elective and nonelective cesarean sections, the rate of primary and repeat
5 cesarean sections, and the rate of vaginal births after cesarean;

6 (2) examine increased complications for women and babies in births by
7 cesarean section;

8 (3) examine increased health care costs associated with surgical births;

9 (4) research programs in other countries, states, and localities that have
10 aimed to reduce the surgical birth rate; and

11 (5) make recommendations regarding methods that may be implemented
12 to reduce the surgical birth rate in the State.

13 (c) On or before November 1, 2020, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall
14 report its findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation, to the Senate
15 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Finance Committee,
16 and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with §
17 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2019.