

HOUSE BILL 588

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HB 757/21 – HGO

2lr0860

By: **Delegates Bagnall, Bartlett, Boyce, Davis, Henson, D. Jones, Lehman, Ruth,
and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies – Feminine Hygiene**
3 **Products**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring local health departments and community action agencies to
5 make available to certain women feminine hygiene products in a certain amount;
6 and generally relating to local health departments and community action agencies
7 and feminine hygiene products.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 3–501 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5. Feminine Hygiene Products
11 in Local Health Departments”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Housing and Community Development

16 Section 8–107

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Health – General**

22 **SUBTITLE 5. FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.**

23 **3–501.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS” MEANS TAMPONS**
2 **AND SANITARY NAPKINS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MENSTRUAL CYCLE.**

3 **(B) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL**
4 **HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS:**

5 **(1) TO ANY WOMAN WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND**

7 **(2) IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WOMAN**
8 **OBTAINING THE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS.**

9 **(C) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE PAYMENT FOR THE**
10 **FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
11 **SECTION.**

12 **(D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL**
13 **FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT ESTIMATED TO BE SUFFICIENT FOR PROVIDING FEMININE**
14 **HYGIENE PRODUCTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

15 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

16 8–107.

17 (a) A community action agency shall plan systematically for an effective
18 community action program, and in doing so shall:

19 (1) evaluate information on the causes and problems of poverty in the
20 community;

21 (2) assess the use and impact of current financial assistance; and

22 (3) establish priorities among projects, activities, and target areas to
23 achieve the best and most efficient use of resources.

24 (b) A community action agency shall:

25 (1) encourage subsidiary boards, councils, and agencies engaged in projects
26 related to a community action program to plan for, secure, and administer available
27 financial assistance on a cooperative basis; and

28 (2) provide technical and organizational assistance to the subsidiary
29 boards, councils, and agencies.

1 (c) A community action agency shall actively supplement local efforts to combat
2 poverty by:

3 (1) focusing resources on the most needy;

4 (2) providing employment opportunities for low-income persons;

5 (3) closing service gaps; and

6 (4) enabling low-income persons to participate in community action
7 programs and projects.

8 (d) A community action agency shall initiate and sponsor community projects to
9 help meet the needs of low-income persons with particular emphasis on:

10 (1) establishing a pool of resources to serve a variety of community action
11 programs;

12 (2) developing versatile approaches and services; and

13 (3) implementing stopgap measures pending the expansion or modification
14 of community action programs.

15 (e) A community action agency shall:

16 (1) establish procedures for community residents to:

17 (i) influence the character of their community action programs; and

18 (ii) participate regularly in implementing those programs; and

19 (2) provide the necessary technical and advisory support to enable
20 low-income persons and community groups to secure public and private financial
21 assistance for themselves.

22 (f) A community action agency shall join with and encourage business, labor, and
23 other private or public officials and organizations to support community action programs
24 that:

25 (1) use private resources and capabilities for new employment
26 opportunities;

27 (2) stimulate investments that measurably reduce poverty in areas of
28 concentrated poverty; and

29 (3) provide residents in those areas with methods to work with private
30 organizations, firms, and institutions to seek solutions to problems of common concern.

1 **(G) (1) A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE AT THE**
2 **AGENCY FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, AS DEFINED IN § 4-2401 OF THIS ARTICLE,**
3 **IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WOMAN OBTAINING THE**
4 **FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS.**

5 **(2) A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY MAY NOT REQUIRE PAYMENT FOR**
6 **THE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
7 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

8 **(3) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL**
9 **FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT ESTIMATED TO BE SUFFICIENT FOR PROVIDING FEMININE**
10 **HYGIENE PRODUCTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2022.