



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 989 - Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge

SPONSOR: Delegate R. Lewis

HEARING DATE: March 2, 2020

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 989 - Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge**, which requires hospitals to provide health and safety instructions to an infant's parent or legal guardian prior to discharge. The bill also requires a hospital before discharging an infant to inquire as to whether a parent or legal guardian can provide the infant with a safe sleep environment and a bassinet, crib, or portable crib. In addition, the bill directs hospitals to provide verbal and written instructions on the importance of a safe sleep environment and the risks of suffocation and sudden infant death in unsafe sleep environments and parents or legal guardians to sign a form confirming they understand the instructions and information provided.

Prince George's County supports efforts to increase knowledge among new parents about safe sleep and managing stress. Providing safe sleep information at discharge is already standard practice in the County's hospitals. This bill expands on current practice by also requiring a list of resources for discounted or free cribs, as well as information on preventing shaken baby syndrome.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 989** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.