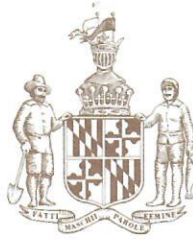


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Business Regulation
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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HB 1139

**Public Funds-Prohibition on Expenditures for Abortion (Abortion
Subsidy Prohibition Act)**

- ***Why is the Bill being introduced?***

The purpose of this bill is to further state policy that normal childbirth is to be given preference, encouragement, and support by law and through state action and affirmed as serving the best interests and common good of Maryland citizens. This bill is intended to ensure that public funds are not used to subsidize abortions directly or indirectly.

The government may rationally distinguish between abortion and other medical procedures because "no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life." *Harris v. McRae*, 448 U.S. 297, 325 (1980).

- ***What does the Bill do?***

This bill prohibits the use of public funds for abortions or services related to abortions. Unless states expressly prohibit abortion providers from obtaining public funds and resources, they may acquire taxpayer-funded grants and assets and use them to bankroll or subsidize their abortion business.

- ***Why is it important to pass now?***

81% of people polled believe that public funds should be prioritized to fund programs that promote the life and health of both women and children. However, Maryland taxpayers are forced to fund nearly 10,000 elective abortions each year through Maryland Medicaid and many more millions through state departmental contracts and grants. This bill will protect the moral, religious and ethical objections of Maryland taxpayers to funding elective abortions.