

State and Local Legislation Update

The State of Maryland has a legislative session that runs from January to May. The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition and its members tracked the following pieces of legislation this year. While some of these bills do not directly address breastfeeding they do impact access to health care or seek to examine circumstances around the health care of pregnant parents. These issues do have an impact on breastfeeding outcomes for Maryland families.

SB 36/HB 127 – Special Enrollment for Pregnancy – Passed!

In Maryland, a woman who does not qualify for Medicaid is unable to enroll in a health insurance plan if she unexpectedly finds herself pregnant outside of the “open enrollment” period. This piece of legislation will allow a newly pregnant woman to enroll in a health insurance plan without having to wait for the open enrollment period. Read more here: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=SB0036&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2019RS>

SB 602/HB796 – Local Maternity Review Board – Passed!

This piece of legislation opens the membership of local maternity review boards to other people outside of the medical community. Advocates for this bill are hoping for increased representative on these review boards. Read more here: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=hb0796&tab=subject3&ys=2019RS>

HB 1201 - Task Force on Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students in High School and GED Programs – Did not make it out of committee

At the local level, Baltimore City passed a lactation accommodation law: Lactation Accommodations in the Workplace. Read more here: <https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3596454&GUID=C95AA8A9-0EC2-4482-A14B-2E87867D38E9&Options=&Search=>

Do you have a local piece of legislation you feel the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition should track or highlight at an upcoming meeting? Please email president@mdmfc.org and share it with us, thank you!