

HOUSE BILL 1216

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By: **Delegates Rose, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, McComas, Miller, T. Morgan, Pippy, Reilly, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund as a
4 special, nonlapsing fund to provide reimbursement to individuals for unforeseen
5 out-of-pocket health care costs related to the individual's high-risk pregnancy;
6 requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; authorizing an
7 individual to apply for reimbursement from the Fund if the individual provides
8 certain documentation and applies within a certain time period; and generally
9 relating to the High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General

12 Section 13–5201 through 13–5204 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52.
13 High-Risk Pregnancy Reimbursement Fund”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – State Finance and Procurement

18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – State Finance and Procurement

23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190.

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

26 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – State Finance and Procurement
2 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)191.
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Health – General**

8 **SUBTITLE 52. HIGH–RISK PREGNANCY REIMBURSEMENT FUND.**

9 **13–5201.**

10 IN THIS SUBTITLE, “FUND” MEANS THE HIGH–RISK PREGNANCY
11 REIMBURSEMENT FUND.

12 **13–5202.**

13 (A) THERE IS A HIGH–RISK PREGNANCY REIMBURSEMENT FUND.

14 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT TO AN
15 INDIVIDUAL FOR UNFORESEEN OUT–OF–POCKET HEALTH CARE COSTS RELATED TO
16 THE INDIVIDUAL’S HIGH–RISK PREGNANCY.

17 (C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

18 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
19 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

20 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,
21 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

22 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

23 (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

24 (2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

25 (3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR
26 THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

27 (F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSE OF
28 THE FUND.

1 **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
2 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

3 **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
4 **THE FUND.**

5 **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**
6 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

7 **(I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSE**
8 **OF THE FUND IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF**
9 **FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR CARRYING OUT THE**
10 **PURPOSE OF THE FUND.**

11 **13-5203.**

12 **(A) AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE**
13 **FUND IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

14 **(1) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION FROM A PHYSICIAN OR OTHER**
15 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO PROVIDED HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE**
16 **INDIVIDUAL DURING THE PREGNANCY THAT THE PREGNANCY IS HIGH-RISK FOR**
17 **THE PREGNANT INDIVIDUAL, THE FETUS, OR BOTH;**

18 **(2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL PAID**
19 **OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE**
20 **PREGNANCY THAT WERE NOT COVERED OR REIMBURSED BY INSURANCE; AND**

21 **(3) APPLIES TO THE FUND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ELIGIBLE COSTS**
22 **WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD OR LOSS OF THE PREGNANCY.**

23 **(B) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPLIES FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FUND**
24 **MAY RECEIVE A REIMBURSEMENT NOT EXCEEDING \$25,000 FOR EACH HIGH-RISK**
25 **PREGNANCY.**

26 **13-5204.**

27 **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
28 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
29 **\$2,500,000 TO THE FUND.**

1 6–226.

2 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless
3 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the
4 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the
5 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to
6 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General
7 Fund of the State.

8 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply
9 to the following funds:

10 189. the Teacher Retention and Development Fund; [and]

11 190. the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund; AND

12 **191. THE HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY REIMBURSEMENT**
13 **FUND.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2024.