By: Senators Jacobs, Colburn, Greenip, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hooper, Lawlah, Mooney, Munson, Stoltzfus, and Stone

INTRODUCED AND READ FIRST TIME: January 23, 2006
ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
REASSIGNED: Finance, January 25, 2006

COMMITTEE REPORT: Favorable with amendments
SENATE ACTION: Adopted
READ SECOND TIME: March 1, 2006

CHAPTER_______

1 AN ACT concerning

Hospitals Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Umbilical Cord Blood
- Blood Donation - Educational Materials

FOR the purpose of requiring each hospital to offer pregnant patients the option of donating certain umbilical cord blood to a certain cord blood bank with a certain exception; prohibiting the requirement for collection of cord blood by certain hospitals and certain hospital employees directly affiliated with a bona fide religious denomination with certain religious beliefs relating to the transfer of human blood to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with certain entities, to develop educational materials concerning the donation of umbilical cord blood; requiring certain obstetricians and hospitals to distribute certain educational materials to certain patients relating to the distribution of educational materials concerning the donation of umbilical cord blood through hospitals.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Health - General
Section 19-308.7
Annotated Code of Maryland (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 197

ARTICLE - HEALTH - GENERAL

§ 19-308.7. Unless it is medically inadvisable, each hospital shall allow the pregnant patient to arrange for the donation of the blood extracted from the umbilical cord of the patient’s newborn child to a certified public cord blood bank.

(b) A patient who agrees to donate cord blood to a public cord blood bank may not be charged for the costs of collecting, storing, or transporting the cord blood.

(c) A hospital is not required to collect cord blood if in the professional judgment of a licensed physician the collection of the cord blood would threaten the health of the mother or newborn child.

(d) Any hospital or hospital employee, including a physician, nurse, or other medical staff, that is directly affiliated with a bona fide religious denomination that includes, as an integral part of its beliefs and practices, the tenet that blood transfusion is contrary to the moral principles that the denomination considers to be an essential part of its beliefs may not be required to collect cord blood if the collection of cord blood conflicts with the bona fide religious practices and beliefs of the hospital or hospital employee.

(e) This section may not be construed to require a hospital to arrange for the donation of blood extracted from umbilical cords.

(F) (1) The department, in consultation with obstetricians, the Maryland hospital association, and interested groups, shall develop educational materials concerning the values, uses, and donation of umbilical cord blood for the purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) Each obstetrician and hospital that provides obstetrical services shall distribute the educational materials described in paragraph (1) of this subsection to pregnant patients.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.