

Stillbirth Support Fund SB 525; HB 584 Sen.

Williams Graves, Del. King

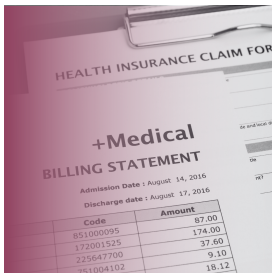
FACT SHEET



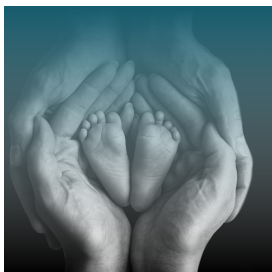
This bill creates a fund that can pay out up to \$1,500 per family who experiences stillbirth to reimburse for qualified related expenses such as uncovered medical bills related to the stillbirth, funeral or disposal expenses, and bereavement pay for unpaid time off.



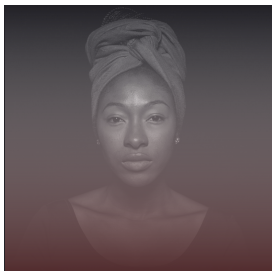
- **In Virginia, approximately 500-550 stillbirths occur every year.** We don't know a lot about the causes of stillbirths; we do know that the same racial disparities that exist in maternal mortality statistics carry over to stillbirths.
- **Black mothers are more than twice as likely to experience stillbirth compared to Hispanic and white mothers.**



- Losing a pregnancy after 20 weeks is often a tragedy, a loss of a much-desired pregnancy. The loss can have both adverse emotional and financial effects on the entire family.
- **Many families do not have paid family leave in the event of a stillbirth but still may need to take time off to grieve.**



- Families may experience uncovered medical expenses related to the stillbirth that can be hard to cover.
- Others may wish to obtain a stillbirth birth certificate and pay for a burial or a cremation. Here, **life insurance is not an option, as it typically covers children from 14 days old to their 18th birthday.**
- A family who loses a child who is born alive and draws even one breath can claim that child on that year's tax return. Receiving financial support to cover some of the expenses above, a family who experiences a stillbirth has no such ability.



- **Families who experience stillbirth often feel abandoned and isolated,** having experienced a tragedy not acknowledged by the government or their employer, with no financial help available to them to cover necessary expenses.

The 2-Sentence Talking Points:

A stillbirth is the death or loss of a pregnancy before or during delivery; many are unexpected and sometimes unexplained. This Stillbirth Support Fund can disburse money for uncovered medical expenses related to the stillbirth, disposition expenses for the pregnancy loss, or loss of wages due to bereavement.