



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6507***

LCO No. 3405



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MATERNAL CHOICE IN THE EVENT OF STILLBIRTH AND THE REMOVAL OF DELIVERED PLACENTAS FROM HOSPITALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section,  
2 "stillborn fetus" means a fetus that died after a gestation period of  
3 twenty weeks or more.

4 (b) The mother of a stillborn fetus shall have the right to arrange for  
5 burial or cremation of the fetus. When practicable, upon admission to a  
6 hospital in which a mother expects to deliver a stillborn fetus, such  
7 hospital shall notify the mother in writing of her right to arrange for  
8 burial or cremation of the fetus. If notification upon admission is not  
9 practicable, or the mother did not expect to deliver a stillborn fetus at  
10 the time of admission, such notification shall be made not later than  
11 twenty-four hours after admission. Not later than twenty-four hours  
12 after being notified by the hospital under this subsection, the mother  
13 may elect, in writing, to arrange for the burial or cremation of the  
14 stillborn fetus. The Department of Public Health shall prescribe the

15 forms to be used for notifications and elections under this section.

16 Sec. 2. Section 19a-490v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

18 (a) Except for the portion of a delivered placenta that is necessary for  
19 an examination described in subsection (d) of this section, a hospital  
20 [may] shall allow a woman who has given birth in the hospital, or a  
21 spouse of the woman if the woman is incapacitated or deceased, to take  
22 possession of and remove from the hospital the placenta if:

23 (1) The woman tests negative for infectious diseases; and

24 (2) The person taking possession of the placenta provides a written  
25 acknowledgment that (A) the person received from the hospital  
26 educational information concerning the spread of blood-borne diseases  
27 from a placenta, the danger of ingesting formalin and the proper  
28 handling of the placenta, and (B) the placenta is for personal use.

29 (b) A person removing a placenta from a hospital under this section  
30 [may] shall only retain the placenta for personal use and [may] shall not  
31 sell the placenta.

32 (c) The hospital shall retain the signed acknowledgment described in  
33 subsection (a) with the woman's medical records.

34 (d) This section does not (1) prohibit a pathological examination of  
35 the delivered placenta that is ordered by a physician or required by a  
36 policy of the hospital, or (2) authorize a woman or the woman's spouse  
37 to interfere with a pathological examination of the delivered placenta  
38 that is ordered by a physician or required by a policy of the hospital.

39 (e) A hospital that allows a person to take possession of and remove  
40 from the hospital a delivered placenta in accordance with the provisions  
41 of this section is not required to dispose of the placenta as biomedical  
42 waste.

43 (f) A hospital that acts in accordance with the provisions of this  
44 section shall not be liable for allowing the removal of a placenta from

45 the hospital in a civil action, a criminal prosecution or an administrative  
46 proceeding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	19a-490v

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require hospitals to (1) inform mothers of stillborn fetuses of the right to arrange for burial or cremation of such fetuses, and (2) permit the removal of a delivered placenta from the hospital.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*