

HB 05 – Establishes Newborn Screening Program Fund sponsored by Delegate Tony O’Donnell

Purpose: HB-05 establishes a non-lapsing fund for testing newborn babies for certain hereditary and congenital disorders. It requires the money in the fund be used only for administrative, laboratory and follow-up costs associated with screening tests for newborn babies and cannot be transferred to other funds. This bill is identical to HB 1542 of 2014 that failed to pass due to political trickery on the last night of the Session, except that HB 05 is an Emergency Bill.

Background: Delegate O’Donnell became aware that \$1,500,000 for testing of newborn babies for hereditary and congenital disorders was transferred to other uses in the general fund when he learned of little Lily Smith of Leonardtown, MD and her parents Ben and Kathleen Smith. Lily developed Krabbe Leukodystrophy and suffers serious health problems that could have been avoided if funds for testing for this disease had been available at birth. If treated soon after birth her life expectancy could have been normal. Delegate O’Donnell said that “Lily is his hero.” His bill will help insure funds will be available to help future newborns.

How you can Help: Call, Fax or Send an E-mail to the Chairman and all Members of the House Committee on Health and Government Operations. Urge them to vote for a Favorable Report for HB-05 and to report the bill to the full House of Delegates for passage right away.

You can highlight the e-mail addresses below and “copy” and “paste” them into the “TO” line of an e-mail and reach every member of the committee with one e-mail. If you choose the “bcc” line feature on your e-mail the delegates will only see their name on the message.

**MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES – HEALTH & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
2015**

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Maryland Legislative Web Site: <http://mgaleg@maryland.gov> – To read bill go to web site and enter HB 05. At the summary page click on the bill number and the text will appear.

Telephone/Fax exchanges for the Legislature: Call 410-841-ext. or 301-858-ext.

