A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require hospitals, health care facilities and birth centers provide notice regarding the danger window blinds pose to children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Window Blind Safety Notification Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Window blind safety notification requirement.

(a) The Department of Health (DOH) shall require that every hospital, health care facility, and birth center shall prepare in printed or photocopied form and distribute at the time of pre-booking directly to each prospective maternity patient and, upon request, to the general public an informational notice regarding the serious danger window blinds pose to children.

(b) Such information notice shall be designed by DOH and shall contain brief definitions of maternity related procedures and practices and also include information regarding the dangers that window blinds pose to children, proper installation methods and techniques of blinds, examples of current standards and the potentially fatal consequences from strangulation.
posed by window blinds.

(c) Hospitals, health care facilities, and birth centers may also elect to distribute additional explanatory material along with the maternity patients’ informational notice.

(d) DOH shall make the information contained in the notice available on the department’s website and shall cause a sufficient number of notices to be printed or photocopied to allow each pediatric primary care provider in the District to provide the notice to parents at a child’s six-month appointment.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.


Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of a veto by the Mayor, override of the veto by the Council, a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.