

**CHAPTER 691****(House Bill 1096)**

AN ACT concerning

**Milk Products – Sell-By Period**

FOR the purpose of eliminating the authority of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to review the keeping quality of certain milk products, conduct certain studies, and adopt regulations that establish the maximum length of time certain milk products may be kept for sale; ~~authorizing certain milk processors to determine the length of time certain milk products may be kept for sale; eliminating~~ altering certain standards regarding the length of time certain milk products may be kept for sale; repealing certain provisions that permit certain milk processors to apply for permission to extend the length of time certain milk products may be kept for sale under certain circumstances; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to certain milk products and the length of time they may be kept for sale.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 21-426

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health – General**

21-426.

(a) In this section, “sell-by period” means the length of time a Grade A milk product may be kept for sale.

(b) [The Secretary shall:

(1) Review from time to time the keeping quality of Grade A milk products by conducting scientific shelf-life studies that recognize different methods of pasteurization; and

(2) After holding a public hearing, adopt rules and regulations that establish the maximum sell-by period for each kind of Grade A milk product.] ~~EACH GRADE A MILK PROCESSOR SHALL DETERMINE THE SELL-BY PERIOD FOR ITS PRODUCTS.~~

(e) (1) After a public hearing, the Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations that establish a method for conspicuously marking, on the Grade A milk product container, the last date on which the product may be sold.