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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 554
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Boggs and Manchester

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SUMMARY

- Allows a pregnant minor to consent to receive health care, such as prenatal health care, health care during delivery, post-delivery health care, and family planning services, to maintain or improve her life or the life of the unborn child she is carrying.
- States that the bill does not remove or limit any person's responsibility under Ohio law to report child abuse or neglect.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Health care for pregnant minors

The bill allows a pregnant minor to consent to receiving health care for herself and her unborn child. "Health care," as used in this bill, means only treatment or services intended to maintain the life or improve the health of either a pregnant minor or the unborn child she is carrying.

Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of law, a minor can consent to receiving prenatal health care, health care during the delivery, and post-delivery health care necessary for physical recovery from birth prior to being discharged from the hospital. Such care includes family planning services. Consent to receive health care cannot be disaffirmed because the minor has not reached the age of majority. Consent is not needed from any other person to authorize the provision of health care. That includes consent from (1) the minor's spouse, (2) the minor's parent, guardian, or a person acting in the place of the minor's parent ("parent"), or (3) the putative father of the unborn child. The bill also provides that the parent is not liable for any costs for treatment or services provided.

At the minor's initial prenatal visit, the health care facility or professional must request the minor's permission to contact the minor's spouse or parent to seek additional medical information that may be necessary or helpful in providing proper care to the minor or her unborn child. For medical treatment reasons, the treating health care professional or the

professional's delegate may inform the minor's spouse or parent regarding provided or needed health care. The health care professional or delegate may not, however, provide information related to the minor's medical history.

The bill does not remove or limit the responsibility of any person under Ohio law governing child abuse and neglect reporting to report any of the following:

- Child abuse that is known or reasonably suspected or believed to have occurred;
- Child neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed to have occurred;
- Children who are known to face or reasonably suspected or believed to be facing a threat of suffering abuse or neglect.¹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-16-20

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¹ R.C. 3701.62.