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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Crawley

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Health to establish annual education requirements for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers and to monitor these facilities for compliance.
- Requires that education requirements include modules on severe maternal hypertension, obstetric hemorrhage, and the other two most prevalent obstetric complications as identified by the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Board.
- Requires the Department of Health to collaborate with the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative or its successor to develop an initiative to reduce racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.
- Requires the Department of Health to collaborate with the PAMR Board to make best practices available for timely identification of pregnant and postpartum women in the emergency department and for timely consultation with an appropriate medical professional.
- Designates the bill as the “Save Our Mothers Act.”

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Education requirements

The bill requires the Department of Health to adopt rules establishing continuing education requirements for employees and contractors at hospitals and freestanding birthing centers.¹ A freestanding birthing center is any facility where deliveries regularly occur,

¹ R.C. 3702.35(B).

regardless of whether the center is on the campus of another health care facility.² The Director of Health may consult with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other relevant professional associations to set requirements.³

The requirements must include that each hospital and freestanding birthing center provide its employees and contractors educational modules on (1) severe maternal hypertension, (2) obstetric hemorrhage, and (3) the two most prevalent obstetric complications identified in the most recent biennial report prepared by the existing Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Board, other than those in (1) and (2). The modules must be updated and provided at least once annually. The Director must require that hospitals and freestanding birthing centers apply to the appropriate professional licensing boards to have each educational module approved for continuing education credit.⁴ The Director is responsible for monitoring hospitals and freestanding birthing centers for compliance with continuing education requirements. The Director is permitted to inspect the records of any hospital or freestanding birthing center and may require that these facilities produce reports on continuing education activities.⁵

Maternal health equity initiative

The bill requires the Department of Health to collaborate with the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative, or its successor, to develop an initiative to reduce racial disparities in maternal health outcomes. This initiative must focus on improving birth equity, reducing peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and addressing implicit bias in the health care system. The initiative must include the development of best practices for implicit bias training and education in cultural competency. Existing programs, including those administered or supported by the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health and the Ohio Equity Institute, must be considered when developing the initiative.⁶

Best practices

Finally, the bill requires the Department of Health to collaborate with the PAMR Board to make available to all hospitals and freestanding birthing centers best practices for the timely identification of pregnant and postpartum women in the emergency department. These best practices must include appropriate and timely consultation with an obstetrician, certified nurse-midwife, or physician assistant with obstetric experience to provide input on patient management and follow-up. Telemedicine may be utilized for the consultation.⁷

² R.C. 3702.35(A)(1); R.C. 3738.20(A)(1).

³ R.C. 3702.35(B).

⁴ R.C. 3702.35(B).

⁵ R.C. 3702.36.

⁶ R.C. 3738.20(B).

⁷ R.C. 3738.20(C).

Rulemaking

The bill authorizes the Director of Health to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement its requirements regarding the maternal health equity initiative and best practices for the timely identification of pregnant and postpartum women in the emergency department.⁸

Designation

The bill is designated as the “Save Our Mothers Act.”⁹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	12-04-19

H0435-I-133/ks

⁸ R.C. 3738.20(D).

⁹ Section 2.