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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 continuing education requirements for employees of hospitals and freestanding birthing centers and to monitor the facilities for compliance.
- Specifies that the continuing education requirements must 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 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 appropriate health care professionals.
- Designates the bill as the “Save Our Mothers Act.”

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Continuing education requirements

The bill requires the Director of Health to establish continuing education requirements for employees and contractors at hospitals and freestanding birthing centers.¹ A freestanding

¹ R.C. 3702.35(B).

birthing center is any facility where deliveries regularly occur, regardless of whether the center is on the campus of another health care facility.²

The continuing education requirements are to be established in rules adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act. The Director may consult with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other relevant professional associations to set the requirements.³

The rules must include a requirement 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 the facilities to 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 the continuing education requirements. The Director is permitted to inspect the facilities' records and may require the facilities to 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

The bill authorizes the Director of Health to adopt rules to implement its requirements regarding the maternal health equity initiative. The rules must be adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act.⁷

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

³ R.C. 3702.35(B) and (D).

⁴ R.C. 3702.35(B).

⁵ R.C. 3702.36.

⁶ R.C. 3738.20(B).

⁷ R.C. 3738.20(D).

Best practices

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. The 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 used for the consultation.⁸

The bill authorizes the Director of Health to adopt rules to implement its requirements regarding best practices for the timely identification of pregnant and postpartum women in the emergency department. The rules must be adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act.⁹

Designation

The bill is designated as the “Save Our Mothers Act.”¹⁰

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-21

H0042-I-134/ec

⁸ R.C. 3738.20(C).

⁹ R.C. 3738.20(D).

¹⁰ Section 2.