

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 1664

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(2) "Review committee" means the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee established under Chapter 34, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The review committee and the department shall jointly conduct a study to evaluate maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women in this state. In conducting the study, the review committee and department shall:

(1) compare maternal mortality and morbidity rates among Black women in this state in relation to maternal mortality and morbidity rates among each other race and ethnicity;

(2) compare maternal mortality and morbidity rates among Black women in this state in relation to socioeconomic status and education level;

(3) assess the impact of social determinants of health, including an evaluation of data on pregnancy-related deaths, pregnancy-related complications that almost resulted in death, and morbidities, to identify any correlation in that data to

1 women who are uninsured, women who receive health care coverage
2 under Medicaid, and women who receive health care coverage through
3 a private insurer;

4 (4) evaluate the impact of the following health
5 conditions on maternal mortality and morbidity:

6 (A) cardiac health conditions;

7 (B) preeclampsia, eclampsia, and other
8 hypertensive disorders;

9 (C) hemorrhage;

10 (D) obesity; and

11 (E) stress-related health conditions; and

12 (5) assess the extent to which implicit biases held by
13 health care providers against Black individuals affect maternal
14 mortality and morbidity among Black women.

15 (c) Based on the results of the study conducted under this
16 section, the review committee and department shall develop
17 recommendations to address disparities in maternal mortality and
18 morbidity among Black women, including recommendations on:

19 (1) strategies to reduce the incidence of
20 pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity;

21 (2) patient outreach and education;

22 (3) health care provider training, including a
23 recommendation on the potential benefit of training on cultural
24 competency and implicit biases against Black individuals;

25 (4) best practices identified as successful in
26 reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; and

27 (5) the implementation in this state of programs

1 operating in other states that have reduced maternal mortality and
2 morbidity rates.

3 (d) Not later than September 1, 2024, the review committee
4 and department shall prepare and submit to the governor, lieutenant
5 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate
6 committees of the legislature a written report that summarizes the
7 results of the study and includes the recommendations developed
8 under this section. The report may be consolidated with the
9 biennial report required under Section 34.015, Health and Safety
10 Code.

11 SECTION 2. This Act expires December 31, 2024.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.