

By: Walle

H.B. No. 10

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to maternal morbidity and pregnancy-related deaths.

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

SECTION 1. Section 34.005, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 34.005. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

(1) study and review:

(A) cases of pregnancy-related deaths; and

(B) trends, rates, or disparities in pregnancy-related deaths and ~~in~~ severe maternal morbidity;

(2) determine the feasibility of the task force studying cases of severe maternal morbidity; ~~and~~

(3) make recommendations to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in this state; and

(4) identify clinical practice opportunities in maternal health care and develop evidence-based and provider-based best practice recommendations to address those issues, prioritized by most prevalent causes of pregnancy-related death and severe maternal morbidity, in consultation with:

(A) the commission;

(B) the department;

(C) the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies;

- 1 (D) the Perinatal Advisory Council; and
2 (E) any relevant experts and other interested
3 persons.

4 SECTION 2. Sections 34.007(a) and (b), Health and Safety
5 Code, are amended to read as follows:

6 (a) The department shall determine a statistically
7 significant number of cases of pregnancy-related deaths for review.
8 The department shall either randomly select cases or select all
9 cases for the task force to review under this subsection to reflect
10 a cross-section of pregnancy-related deaths in this state.

11 (b) The department shall statistically analyze aggregate
12 data of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in
13 this state to identify any trends, rates, or disparities.

14 SECTION 3. Chapter 34, Health and Safety Code, is amended by
15 adding Sections 34.0156 and 34.0157 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 34.0156. MATERNAL HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIATIVE. (a)
17 Using existing resources, the department, in collaboration with the
18 task force, shall promote and facilitate the use among health care
19 providers in this state of maternal health and safety informational
20 materials, including tools and procedures related to best practice
21 recommendations in maternal health and safety under Section 34.005.

22 (b) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
23 the department shall submit to the executive commissioner,
24 governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
25 representatives, Legislative Budget Board, and appropriate
26 standing committees of the legislature a report that includes:

- 27 (1) a summary of the initiative's implementation and

1 outcomes; and

2 (2) recommendations for improving the effectiveness
3 of the initiative.

4 Sec. 34.0157. FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO MATERNAL HEALTH
5 AND SAFETY INITIATIVE. (a) Using existing resources and not later
6 than December 1, 2018, the commission shall study and determine the
7 feasibility of facilitating the adoption of best practice
8 recommendations under Section 34.005 and improving maternal health
9 outcomes as part of a value-based and quality improvement
10 initiative to promote better health outcomes and to lower costs for
11 publicly funded health care services. In conducting the study, the
12 commission as necessary shall consult with interested persons,
13 including managed care organizations and providers.

14 (b) The department shall collaborate with the commission in
15 compiling available data and information needed to complete the
16 feasibility study.

17 (c) The commission shall include the commission's
18 determination from the feasibility study in the report required by
19 Section 34.0156. The report may be included as part of another
20 report the department is required to submit to the legislature.

21 (d) This section expires May 1, 2019.

22 SECTION 4. Section 34.018, Health and Safety Code, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Sec. 34.018. SUNSET PROVISION. The task force is subject to
25 Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued
26 in existence as provided by that chapter, the task force is
27 abolished and this chapter expires December 31, 2023 [~~September 1,~~

1 2019].

2 SECTION 5. Subchapter D, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety
3 Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.0712 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 1001.0712. CAUSE OF DEATH DATA IMPROVEMENT. (a) Not
5 later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the department
6 shall submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the
7 house of representatives, and appropriate standing committees of
8 the legislature a report on the processes and procedures for
9 collecting cause of death information, including any challenges to
10 collecting accurate information relating to maternal mortality.

11 (b) In preparing the report, the department may examine:

12 (1) issues relating to the quality of the death
13 information being collected, including the accuracy and
14 completeness of the information;

15 (2) the role of medical certifiers in death
16 information collection;

17 (3) the perceptions of the individuals collecting the
18 death information regarding the information's integrity;

19 (4) the training required for the individuals
20 collecting death information; and

21 (5) the structural, procedural, and technological
22 issues of collecting the information.

23 (c) The department, in consultation with the Maternal
24 Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, shall examine national
25 standards regarding the collection of death information and may
26 convene a panel of experts to advise the department and the task
27 force in developing recommendations for improving the collection of

1 accurate information related to cause of death.

2 (d) The report may be included as part of another report the
3 department is required to submit to the legislature.

4 (e) This section expires September 1, 2021.

5 SECTION 6. If before implementing any provision of this Act
6 a state agency determines that an additional waiver or additional
7 authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation
8 of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall
9 request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that
10 provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
16 legislative session.