

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 43

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to pregnancy-related deaths and maternal morbidity,
including postpartum depression.

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;

(C) health conditions and factors that disproportionately affect the most at-risk population as determined in the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report (July 2016); and

(D) best practices and programs operating in other states that have reduced rates of pregnancy-related deaths;

(2) compare rates of pregnancy-related deaths based on the socioeconomic status of the mother;

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

(4) ~~(3)~~ make recommendations to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal

1 morbidity in this state.

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

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

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

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 34, Health and Safety Code, is amended by
13 adding Section 34.0155 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 34.0155. REPORT ON PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS AND
15 POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION. The commission shall:

16 (1) evaluate options for reducing pregnancy-related
17 deaths, focusing on the most prevalent causes of pregnancy-related
18 deaths as identified in the task force's biennial report required
19 under Section 34.015, and for treating postpartum depression in
20 economically disadvantaged women; and

21 (2) submit a written report summarizing the
22 commission's and department's efforts to accomplish the tasks
23 described by Subdivision (1) to the governor, the lieutenant
24 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
25 Legislative Budget Board, and the appropriate standing committees
26 of the legislature not later than December 1 of each even-numbered
27 year.

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

3 Sec. 34.018. SUNSET PROVISION. The task force is subject to
4 Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued
5 in existence as provided by that chapter, the task force is
6 abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2023 [~~2019~~].

7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
12 legislative session.