

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 82

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

morbidity in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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