

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 737

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the duties of the Texas Maternal Mortality and  
3 Morbidity Review Committee and the collection, maintenance, and  
4 disclosure of maternal health records regarding miscarriage and  
5 lack of access to therapeutic termination of pregnancy.

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

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

9 Sec. 34.005. DUTIES OF REVIEW COMMITTEE. The review  
10 committee shall:

11 (1) study and review:

12 (A) cases of pregnancy-related deaths, including  
13 deaths related to miscarriage or threatened miscarriage or  
14 attributable to lack of access to therapeutic termination of  
15 pregnancy;

16 (B) trends, rates, or disparities in  
17 pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity, including  
18 severe maternal morbidity related to miscarriage or threatened  
19 miscarriage or attributable to lack of access to therapeutic  
20 termination of pregnancy;

21 (C) health conditions and factors that  
22 disproportionately affect the most at-risk population as  
23 determined in the joint biennial report required under Section  
24 34.015; and

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

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

5 (3) determine the feasibility of the review committee  
6 studying cases of severe maternal morbidity; and

7 (4) in consultation with the Perinatal Advisory  
8 Council, make recommendations to help reduce the incidence of  
9 pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity in this  
10 state.

11 SECTION 2. Section 34.007, Health and Safety Code, is  
12 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

13 (d) In addition to the data required under Subsection (b)  
14 and cases selected under Subsection (c), the department shall  
15 aggregate and submit to the review committee data regarding cases  
16 of death and severe maternal morbidity:

17 (1) related to miscarriage or threatened miscarriage;  
18 or

19 (2) attributable to lack of access to therapeutic  
20 termination of pregnancy.

21 SECTION 3. Section 34.013, Health and Safety Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 34.013. INAPPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. (a) Except as  
24 provided by Subsection (b), this [~~This~~] chapter does not apply to  
25 disclosure of records pertaining to voluntary or therapeutic  
26 termination of pregnancy, and those records may not be collected,  
27 maintained, or disclosed under this chapter.

1        (b) Records on cases of deaths or severe maternal morbidity  
2 related to miscarriage or threatened miscarriage or attributable to  
3 lack of access to therapeutic termination of pregnancy may be  
4 collected, maintained, and disclosed for purposes of this chapter  
5 and subject to the requirements of this chapter.

6        SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.