By: Pierson H.B. No. 1279

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties of the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the collection, maintenance, and disclosure of maternal health records regarding voluntary termination of pregnancy.

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 REVIEW COMMITTEE. The review committee shall:

(1) study and review:

(A) cases of pregnancy-related deaths, including deaths related to voluntary termination of pregnancy;

(B) trends, rates, or disparities in pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity, including deaths and severe maternal morbidity related to voluntary termination of pregnancy;

(C) health conditions and factors that disproportionately affect the most at-risk population as determined in the joint biennial report required under Section 34.015; 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 review committee studying cases of severe maternal morbidity; and

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

SECTION 2. Section 34.013, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 34.013. INAPPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter does not apply to disclosure of records pertaining to [~~voluntary or~~] therapeutic termination of pregnancy, and those records may not be collected, maintained, or disclosed under this chapter.

SECTION 3. 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 September 1, 2027.