

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

S. B. No. 125

Senators Kunze, Maharath

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Antonio

A BILL

To enact sections 5.266, 3702.36, 3702.37, and 1
3738.20 of the Revised Code to enact the Save 2
Our Mothers Act regarding birth equity, 3
peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and 4
implicit bias in the health care system and to 5
designate May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness 6
Month." 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 5.266, 3702.36, 3702.37, and 8
3738.20 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 5.266. The month of May is designated as "Maternal 10
Mortality Awareness Month." 11

Sec. 3702.36. (A) As used in this section and section 12
3702.37 of the Revised Code: 13

(1) "Freestanding birthing center" means any facility in 14
which deliveries routinely occur, regardless of whether the 15
facility is located on the campus of another health care 16
facility, and which is not licensed under Chapter 3711. of the 17
Revised Code as a level one, two, or three maternity unit or a 18

limited maternity unit. 19

(2) "Hospital" means a hospital registered with the 20
department of health under section 3701.07 of the Revised Code. 21

(3) "Severe maternal morbidity" means unexpected outcomes 22
of pregnancy, labor, or delivery that result in significant 23
short-term or long-term consequences to a woman's health. 24

(B) The director of health shall adopt rules establishing 25
requirements for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to 26
conduct annual continuing education for employees and 27
contractors who routinely care for pregnant and postpartum 28
women, including employees and contractors of the facility's 29
emergency department. In establishing the requirements, the 30
director may consult with the American college of obstetricians 31
and gynecologists and other professional associations concerned 32
with the care of pregnant and postpartum women. 33

(C) Among the requirements to be established under 34
division (B) of this section shall be a requirement that each 35
hospital and freestanding birthing center provide its employees 36
and contractors educational modules on each of the following in 37
accordance with acceptable and prevailing standards of care: 38

(1) Severe maternal hypertension; 39

(2) Obstetric hemorrhage; 40

(3) The two most prevalent obstetric complications, other 41
than those specified in divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this 42
section, as identified in the most recent biennial report 43
prepared under section 3738.08 of the Revised Code by the 44
pregnancy-associated mortality review (PAMR) board established 45
under section 3738.01 of the Revised Code. 46

The modules shall be updated and provided not less than 47
annually. The director shall require that hospitals and 48
freestanding birthing centers apply to the appropriate 49
professional licensing boards to have each educational module 50
approved for continuing education credit. 51

(D) All rules adopted under division (B) of this section 52
shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised 53
Code. 54

Sec. 3702.37. The director of health shall monitor the 55
compliance of hospitals and freestanding birthing centers with 56
the requirements regarding continuing education established in 57
rules adopted under section 3702.36 of the Revised Code. To that 58
end, the director may inspect the records of any hospital or 59
freestanding birthing center and require that each hospital and 60
freestanding birthing center issue reports on the continuing 61
education activities it has conducted. 62

Sec. 3738.20. (A) The department of health shall 63
collaborate with the Ohio perinatal quality collaborative or its 64
successor to develop an initiative to improve birth equity, 65
reduce peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and address 66
implicit bias in the health care system. In developing the 67
initiative, the department and Ohio perinatal quality 68
collaborative shall consider existing programs, including those 69
administered or supported by the alliance for innovation on 70
maternal health and the Ohio equity institute. The department 71
shall ensure that the initiative includes the development of 72
best practices for implicit bias training and education in 73
cultural competency to be used by hospitals and freestanding 74
birthing centers in interactions between patients and health 75
care providers. 76

(B) The department of health, in collaboration with the 77
pregnancy-associated mortality review (PAMR) board established 78
under section 3738.01 of the Revised Code, shall make available 79
to all hospitals and freestanding birthing centers best 80
practices for the timely identification of all pregnant and 81
postpartum women in the emergency department and for the 82
appropriate and timely consultation with an obstetrician, 83
certified nurse-midwife, or physician assistant with obstetric 84
expertise to provide input on patient management and follow-up. 85
A hospital or freestanding birthing center may use telemedicine 86
services for the consultation. 87

(C) The director of health may adopt rules in accordance 88
with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as necessary to implement 89
this section. 90

Section 2. This act shall be known as the Save Our Mothers 91
Act. 92