

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 151

BY SENATOR CARTER

HEALTH CARE. Provides relative to free-standing birth centers. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2180.25(B)(2), relative to free-standing birth centers; to provide for licensing standards for free-standing birth centers; to provide for rules and regulations promulgated by the Louisiana Department of Health; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2180.25(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2180.25. Rules and regulations; licensing standards

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B.

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(2) The rules, regulations, and licensing standards shall have the effect of law and shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Licensure application and renewal, including forms, procedures, and requirements. **Any initial licensure requirements shall include defined standards in alignment with Facility Guideline Institute and Accreditation Standard.**

1 (b) Operational requirements.

2 (c) ~~Practice standards to assure quality of care.~~

3 (d) Practice standards to assure **quality of care and** the health, safety,  
4 welfare, well-being, and comfort of persons receiving care and services. **The**  
5 **practice standards shall be clearly defined for each type of practitioner**  
6 **authorized to provide services in a free-standing birth clinic.**

7 ~~(e)~~**(d)** Confidentiality of clients' records.

8 ~~(f)~~**(e)** Criteria and protocols to assure uniform and quality assessment,  
9 diagnosis, evaluation, and referral to appropriate level of care.

10 ~~(g)~~**(f)** Administration, personnel, and staffing requirements.

11 ~~(h)~~**(g)** Survey and complaint investigations, including investigations into  
12 allegations that a provider is operating without a license.

13 ~~(i)~~**(h)** License types, including provisional licenses.

14 ~~(j)~~**(i)** Denial, revocation, suspension, and nonrenewal of licenses, and the  
15 appeals therefrom.

16 ~~(k)~~**(j)** Planning, construction, and design of the center to ensure the health,  
17 safety, welfare, well-being, and comfort of persons receiving care and services.

18 ~~(l)~~ The requirement that each free-standing birth center be located within a  
19 ground-travel-time distance from a general acute care hospital providing obstetric  
20 services which allows for an emergency cesarean delivery to begin within thirty  
21 minutes of the decision that a cesarean delivery is necessary.

22 ~~(m)~~**(k)** **Requirements for the utilization of an approved statewide**  
23 **transfer initiative.** Requirements for each free-standing birth center to have  
24 agreements or written policies and procedures with other agencies, institutions, or  
25 individuals for services to clients including but not limited to:

26 (i) ~~Laboratory and diagnostic services.~~

27 (ii) ~~Obstetric consultation services.~~

28 (iii) ~~Pediatric consultation services.~~

29 (iv) ~~Transport services.~~



which allows for an emergency cesarean delivery to begin within 30 minutes of the decision that a cesarean delivery is necessary.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 40:2180.25(B)(2))