## SLS 24RS-277

## ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 151

BY SENATOR CARTER

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

1	AN ACT		
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2180.25(B)(2), relative to free-standing birth centers; to		
3	provide for licensing standards for free-standing birth centers; to provide for rules		
4	and regulations promulgated by the Louisiana Department of Health; and to provide		
5	for related matters.		
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:		
7	Section 1. R.S. 40:2180.25(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as		
8	follows:		
9	§2180.25. Rules and regulations; licensing standards		
10	* * *		
11	В.		
12	* * *		
13	(2) The rules, regulations, and licensing standards shall have the effect of law		
14	and shall include but not be limited to the following:		
15	(a) Licensure application and renewal, including forms, procedures, and		
16	requirements. Any initial licensure requirements shall include defined standards		
17	in alignment with Facility Guideline Institute and Accreditation Standard.		

Page 1 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

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	(1) 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.	

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1	(v) Obstetric and newborn acute care in hospitals.	
2	(n)(1) Requirements for each free-standing birth center to have an established	
3	consultation, collaboration, or referral system, in both emergency and	
4	non-emergency circumstances, that falls outside the scope of birth center practice,	
5	to meet the needs of a mother or baby.	
6	(o)(m) Requirements for transferring and transporting clients to hospitals;	
7	protocols for the transfer of any patient to a licensed hospital; and arrangements with	
8	a local ambulance for the transport of emergency patients to a licensed hospital.	
9	(p)(n) Requirements for documentation of adequate prenatal care during the	
10	pregnancy.	
11	(q)(0) Requirements for documentation and evidence that the delivery is	
12	expected to be low-risk, singleton birth, and vertex presentation.	
13	(r)(p) Requirements for meeting specific national standards for birth centers	
14	published or established by the American Association of Birth Centers, as well as	
15	requirements for accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Birth Centers.	
16	(s)(q) Other regulations or standards that will ensure proper care and	
17	treatment of persons receiving care and services at the free-standing birth center, that	
18	may be deemed necessary by the department for an effective administration of this	
19	Part.	

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

	DIGEST					
SB 151 Original	2024 Regular Session	Carter				
Present law authorizes the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate and publish rules						

Present law authorizes the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate and publish rules and regulations for the licensing of free-standing birth centers.

Proposed law retains present law and adds additional requirements for the department to include in its rules.

Proposed law repeals the requirement that free-standing birth centers be located within a ground-travel-time distance from a general acute care hospital providing obstetric services

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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))