

HB 1254 -- Prenatally Diagnosed Condition Awareness Act

Sponsor: Harris (110)

This bill establishes the Prenatally Diagnosed Condition Awareness Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Allows the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services to authorize and oversee certain activities including awarding grants, contracts, or agreements to:

(a) Collect, arrange, and distribute current scientific information relating to prenatally diagnosed conditions; and

(b) Coordinate support services for patients who receive a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally diagnosed conditions. Support services include a telephone hotline, information clearinghouse, peer-support programs, a registry of families willing to adopt newborns with prenatally diagnosed conditions, links to adoption agencies willing to place babies with prenatally diagnosed conditions, and education and awareness programs;

(2) Requires the department director to provide assistance to local health departments to use the results of prenatal testing data in a state vital statistics and birth defects surveillance program;

(3) Requires a health care provider to give a patient who receives a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally diagnosed conditions information concerning the condition and a referral to support services;

(4) Specifies that patient identifying information or information regarding other conditions cannot be collected without the patient's consent and requires the department director to establish rules to enforce compliance;

(5) Requires the department director to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding implementation of guidelines established for collecting patient identifying information within two years and every two years thereafter; and

(6) Requires the department director to report to the General Assembly within one year on the effectiveness of health care and family support programs serving children with disabilities.