

HB 735 -- PERINATAL CARE

SPONSOR: Haefner

This bill establishes the Perinatal Advisory Council and specifies what individuals must serve on the council and how the chair must be elected. The council must establish standards for all neonatal and maternal levels of birthing hospital care including regional perinatal centers. The standards must assure that:

- (1) Facilities are equipped and prepared to stabilize neonates prior to transport;
- (2) Coordination exists between general maternity care and perinatal regional centers;
- (3) Unexpected complications during delivery can be properly managed;
- (4) Procedures are implemented to confidentially identify and report to the department all high-risk birth outcomes, a high-risk pregnancy or baby identified as having a condition that threatens the child's or mother's life is promptly evaluated in consultation with designated regional perinatal centers and referred, if appropriate, to the centers and to other medical specialty services in accordance with the appropriate level of care for the proper management and treatment of the condition;
- (5) Birthing hospitals conduct postnatal reviews of all maternal and infant morbidity and mortality utilizing criteria of case selection developed by the birthing hospitals and the appropriate medical staff in order to determine the appropriateness of diagnosis and treatment and the adequacy of procedures to prevent the loss of life;
- (6) High-risk mothers are provided information, referral, and counseling services to ensure informed consent to their treatment or the treatment of the child;
- (7) Perinatal regional centers must provide consultation for the high-risk newborn or newborn whose life or physical well-being may be in jeopardy; and
- (8) The perinatal care system is monitored and performance evaluated and any reporting required to facilitate implementation must minimize duplication.

The standards developed under these provisions must be based upon evidence and best practices as outlined by the most current version

of the Levels of Neonatal Care prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the most current published version of the Levels of Maternal Care developed by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and necessary variance when considering the geographic and varied needs of citizens of this state.

The bill prohibits any individual or organization providing information to the Department of Health and Senior Services, a perinatal regional center, or the Perinatal Advisory Council in accordance with these provisions from being held liable, either civilly or criminally, for divulging confidential information unless that individual or organization acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose. Nothing in these provisions must be construed to modify or expand any health care professional licensing practice law or to require a patient to be transferred to a different facility.

The standards must be established by rules and regulations of the department no later than January 1, 2017.

Beginning January 1, 2016, hospital license applications must include the appropriate level of maternal care designation and neonatal care designation as determined by the standards outlined in these provisions. The department may partner with appropriate nationally recognized nonprofit organizations with demonstrated expertise in maternal and neonatal standards of care to administer the provisions the bill.