

# A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF THE ART OF MIDWIFERY IN THE  
STATE OF IOWA.

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

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person who is not, at the time of the passage of  
2 this act, engaged in the practice of the art of midwifery in this state, to commence such  
3 practice without having first obtained and registered the certificate provided by this act; and  
4 no person shall be entitled to the certificate herein provided for unless she shall be a graduate  
5 of a reputable school of midwifery or institution duly incorporated or established under the  
6 laws of Iowa or some one of the United States or foreign country in good standing.

Sec. 2. All graduates who shall be engaged in practice in the art of midwifery at the  
2 time of the passage of this act, shall within six months thereafter present to the state board  
3 of medical examiners their diplomas for verifications as to its genuineness. If the diploma is  
4 found genuine and from a reputable school of midwifery or institution duly incorporated or  
5 established under the laws of Iowa or some one of the United States or foreign country, in  
6 good standing, and if the person named therein be the person claiming and presenting the  
7 same, the state board of medical examiners shall issue a certificate to the effect, signed by all  
8 the members thereof, and such certificate shall be conclusive as to the right of the lawful  
9 holder of the same to practice midwifery in this state.

Sec. 3. Every person not a graduate, and practicing midwifery in this state for the last  
2 ten years, five years of which time shall have been in one locality, shall furnish the state board  
3 of medical examiners satisfactory evidence of such practice, and shall within six months from  
4 the passage of this act present herself before said board and submit herself to such examina-  
5 tion as the board may require, and if the examination be satisfactory to the board, the said  
6 board shall issue its certificate in accordance with the facts, and the lawful holder of such cer-  
7 tificate shall be entitled to all rights and privileges herein mentioned.

Sec. 4. Certificates shall be signed by all the members of the board, and the secretary of  
8 the board shall receive from the applicant a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) for each certificate. All  
9 such fees for certificates shall be paid by the secretary into the treasury of the board.

VERIFICATIONS OF DIPLOMAS—AFFIDAVIT.

Sec. 5. The verification of the diploma shall consist of the affidavit of the holder and the  
2 applicant, that she is the lawful possessor of the same and that she is the person therein  
3 named. Such affidavit may be taken before any person authorized to administer oaths, and  
4 the same shall be attested under the hands and seal of such officer, if he have a seal; and any  
5 person swearing falsely in such affidavit shall be deemed guilty of perjury and punished  
6 accordingly.

Sec. 6. Graduates may present their diplomas and affidavit as provided in this act by  
2 letter or proxy, and the state board of medical examiners shall issue its certificate the same as  
3 though the owner was present.

EXAMINATION BY BOARD.

Sec. 7. All examinations of persons not graduates or licentiates shall be made directly  
2 by the board, and the certificate given by the board shall authorize the possessor to practice  
3 the art of midwifery in the state of Iowa.

CERTIFICATES TO BE RECORDED.

Sec. 8. Every person holding a certificate from the state board of medical examiners  
2 shall have it recorded in the office of the clerk of the county in which she resides before engag-  
3 ing in practice, and the date of recording shall be endorsed therein.

Sec. 9. Any person removing to another county for practice shall record the certificate in  
2 like manner in the county to which she removes, and the holder of the certificate shall pay to  
3 the county clerk the usual fee for making the records.

BOOK TO BE KEPT.

Sec. 10. The county clerk shall keep in a book provided for the purpose a complete list of  
2 certificates recorded by him with the date of the issue of the same. The register of the county  
3 clerk shall be open to the public inspection during business hours.

BIRTHS TO BE REPORTED.

Sec. 11. Every birth shall be reported by the obstetricians in such time, and on blanks  
2 furnished by the state board of health through the county clerks or any other health officer  
3 and such blanks shall be delivered to the holder of a state certificate only, after recording of the  
4 same.

FEE FOR EXAMINATION.

1 Sec. 12. The fees for examination of non-graduates shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00), and  
2 said fees shall be paid by the applicant into the treasury of the board to be applied by said  
3 board toward defraying the expenses thereof. If any applicant fails to pass examination her  
4 fee shall not be returned, but she shall be entitled to another chance within twelve months.  
5 Upon successfully passing the examination the certificate of the board shall be issued to the  
6 applicant.

CHARACTER OF EXAMINATION.

1 Sec. 13. Examination may be made in whole or in part in writing in the following  
2 branches:

- 3 1. Anatomy of the pelvis and of the generative organs of women.
- 4 2. Physiology of menstruation and conception.
- 5 3. The signs of pregnancy.
- 6 4. Mechanism of labor.
- 7 5. Puerperal hygiene and antiseptic.
- 8 6. Management of normal labor.
- 9 7. Special care of mother and infant in puerperium only.

1 Sec. 14. An applicant who desires the examination conducted in any other than the  
2 English language must furnish an interpreter at her own expense.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

1 Sec. 15. Eighty (80) per cent of correct answers shall be required to pass.

REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE.

1 Sec. 16. The state board of medical examiners may refuse to issue the certificate to indi-  
2 viduals guilty of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, and it may revoke such certificate  
3 for like causes.

DEFINITION OF PRACTICING MIDWIFE.

1 Sec. 17. Every person shall be regarded as a practicing midwife, within the meaning of  
2 this act, who shall, for a fee or salary or other reward, paid either to her or to another person,  
3 and who shall deliver a pregnant woman, at the expiration of her full term, in the vertex  
4 presentation with its four positions, as follows, viz:

- 5 1. Left occipite anterior;
- 6 2. Right occipite anterior;
- 7 3. Right occipite posterior;

8 4. Left occipite posterior;

9 And no person except a regularly qualified and practicing physician shall deliver a pregnant  
10 woman in any other position than named in this section, under the penalties provided for a  
11 violation of this act.

Sec. 18. It shall be the duty of every practicing midwife to immediately call a regularly  
2 qualified and practicing physician to her assistance upon discovery of any abnormal presenta-  
3 tion, such as breech, face and transverse position, under the penalties provided in section 21  
4 of this act.

Sec. 19. No midwife shall treat, operate or prescribe for any physical ailment of any  
2 other than a woman in puerperium, or infant, nor shall such midwife administer at any time  
3 to any one, any drug, nostrum, ointment or appliance of any kind intended for the treatment  
4 of disease or injury, except such remedies as carbolic acid, boracic acid, or any other antiseptic  
5 for use of the art of midwifery for disinfection purposes.

Sec. 20. It shall be the duty of every practicing midwife, in every case of any disturbance  
2 in or after a natural delivery, such as post partum hemorrhages, placenta, or puerperal fever,  
3 to call at once, on discovery of such condition, a regularly and practicing physician.

#### PENALTY.

Sec. 21. Any person not possessing the qualifications for the practice of the art of mid-  
2 wifery required by the provisions of this act, who shall engage in the practice of the art of  
3 midwifery in this state, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof  
4 shall be fined in any sum not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than one hundred dollars  
5 (\$100) and the costs of prosecution for each offense, and shall stand committed until such fine  
6 and costs are paid.

Sec. 22. Any person filing or attempting to file as her own the diploma or certificate of  
2 another, or a forged affidavit of identification, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon con-  
3 viction thereof shall be subject to such fine and imprisonment as are made and provided by  
4 the statutes of this state for the crime of forgery, and it shall be the duty of the district attor-  
5 ney in each county to prosecute violations of this act.

Sec. 23. All acts or parts of acts, so far as they conflict with the provisions of this act,  
2 are hereby repealed