

House File 423 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 423

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HOLT, BAXTER, ROGERS, and
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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to midwives and the practice of midwifery and
2 making a penalty applicable.

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

1 Section 1. Section 147.1, Code 2015, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. "Midwife" means a person who is
4 trained to give the necessary care and advice to women during
5 pregnancy, labor, and the post-birth period, to conduct normal
6 deliveries on the midwife's own responsibility, and to care
7 for the newly born infant, and who is able to recognize the
8 warning signs of abnormal conditions requiring referral to or
9 collaboration with a physician.

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 3B. "Midwifery" means the practice of
11 attending women experiencing low-risk pregnancies during
12 pregnancy, labor, and the post-birth period with the informed
13 consent of the woman, and the provision of comprehensive care
14 of the pregnant woman during the antepartal phase, intrapartal
15 phase, and postpartal phase, and the application of emergency
16 care when necessary.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 147.151 **Midwifery not a public offense**
18 **— use of false title prohibited.**

19 Acting as a midwife, referring to oneself as a midwife, or
20 practicing midwifery shall not constitute a public offense.
21 A midwife shall not identify as a member of a profession
22 licensed under this chapter or otherwise use a professional
23 title or abbreviation designated for a licensed professional
24 in this chapter. A midwife who falsely claims by the use of
25 any professional title or abbreviation to be a practitioner of
26 a profession licensed under this chapter shall be guilty of a
27 simple misdemeanor as provided in section 147.74, subsection 1.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill defines the terms "midwife" and "midwifery" and
32 states that anyone acting or holding oneself out as a midwife
33 or practicing midwifery shall not have committed a public
34 offense by doing so.

35 The bill prohibits midwives from using the titles or

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1 abbreviations of professionals licensed under Code chapter 147.
2 A midwife who does use such a title or abbreviation shall be
3 guilty of a simple misdemeanor.