

**Senate File 2252 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2252  
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3114)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the more options for maternal support  
2 program, and including effective date and retroactive  
3 applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 217.41C, Code 2024, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 **217.41C More options for maternal support program.**

4 1. *a.* The department shall create the more options for  
5 maternal support program, a statewide program to promote  
6 healthy pregnancies and childbirth through nonprofit  
7 organizations that provide pregnancy support services.

8 *b.* The more options for maternal support program is designed  
9 to do all of the following:

10 (1) Provide an approach and personalized support to  
11 pregnant women to provide stabilization to families.

12 (2) Promote improved pregnancy outcomes, including reducing  
13 abortions, by helping women practice sound health-related  
14 behaviors and improve prenatal nutrition.

15 (3) Improve child health and development by helping parents  
16 provide responsible and competent care for their children.

17 (4) Improve family economic self-sufficiency by linking  
18 parents to services that address individual economic and social  
19 needs.

20 *c.* For the purposes of [this section](#), ~~“pregnancy support~~  
21 ~~services”~~:

22 (1) “Pregnancy support services” means those nonmedical  
23 services that promote childbirth by providing information,  
24 counseling, and support services that assist pregnant women or  
25 women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and  
26 to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or  
27 parenting with respect to their children.

28 (2) “Provider of pregnancy support services” or “provider”  
29 means a nonprofit organization that provides pregnancy support  
30 services under contract with the program administrator or the  
31 department.

32 2. The program may provide and support all of the following  
33 pregnancy support services:

34 *a.* Nutritional services and education.

35 *b.* Housing, education, and employment assistance during

1 pregnancy and up to one year following a birth.

2 *c.* Adoption education, planning, and services.

3 *d.* Child care assistance if necessary for a pregnant woman  
4 to receive pregnancy support services.

5 *e.* Parenting education and support services for up to one  
6 year following a child's birth.

7 *f.* Material items which are supportive of pregnancy and  
8 childbirth including but not limited to cribs, car seats,  
9 clothing, diapers, formula, or other safety devices.

10 *g.* Information regarding health care benefits, including but  
11 not limited to available Medicaid coverage for pregnancy care  
12 and health care coverage for a child following birth.

13 *h.* A call center for information or to schedule  
14 appointments.

15 *i.* Medical information and referrals for medical care,  
16 including but not limited to pregnancy tests, sexually  
17 transmitted infection tests, other health screenings,  
18 ultrasound services, prenatal care, and birth classes and  
19 planning.

20 *j.* Counseling, mentoring, educational information, and  
21 classes relating to pregnancy, parenting, adoption, life  
22 skills, and employment readiness.

23 3. The department ~~shall~~ may administer the program directly  
24 through providers of pregnancy support services or may issue a  
25 request for proposals to select a program administrator for the  
26 program. A If the department issues a request for proposals  
27 and selects a program administrator, the program administrator  
28 shall meet all of the following requirements:

29 *a.* Be a nonprofit entity incorporated in this state with a  
30 tax-exempt status pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
31 Revenue Code.

32 *b.* Have Create and maintain, and have systems and processes  
33 in place that have been used for at least three years to  
34 successfully manage, a statewide network of ~~subcontractors~~  
35 providing providers of pregnancy support services.

1     *c.* Have a commitment to promoting healthy pregnancies and  
2 childbirth instead of abortion as a fundamental part of the  
3 program administrator's mission.

4     ~~*d.* Create and maintain a network of subcontractors to~~  
5 ~~provide pregnancy support services.~~

6     ~~*e.*~~ *d.* Maintain records for each subcontractor provider of  
7 pregnancy support services.

8     ~~*f.*~~ *e.* Monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of  
9 a subcontractor contract with a provider of pregnancy support  
10 services.

11     4. A subcontractor ~~providing~~ provider of pregnancy support  
12 services under the program shall meet all of the following  
13 requirements:

14     *a.* Be a nonprofit organization incorporated in this state  
15 with a tax-exempt status pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the  
16 Internal Revenue Code.

17     *b.* Have a minimum of one year of operational experience in  
18 either providing core pregnancy support services ~~or managing~~  
19 ~~a network of providers of pregnancy support services as a~~  
20 ~~subcontractor.~~

21     *c.* Have a primary mission of promoting healthy pregnancies  
22 and childbirth instead of abortion.

23     *d.* Have a system of financial accountability consistent with  
24 generally accepted accounting principles, including an annual  
25 budget.

26     *e.* Have a board that hires and supervises a director who  
27 manages the organization's operations.

28     *f.* Offer, at a minimum, counseling or services for women who  
29 are or may be experiencing unplanned pregnancies.

30     *g.* Provide confidential and free pregnancy support services  
31 and other program services.

32     *h.* Provide each pregnant woman with accurate information  
33 on the developmental characteristics of unborn children and  
34 babies.

35     *i.* Ensure that program funds are not used to provide

1 or refer pregnant women for terminations of pregnancy, or  
2 to encourage or affirmatively counsel a pregnant woman to  
3 terminate a pregnancy unless the pregnant woman's attending  
4 physician confirms the termination of pregnancy is medically  
5 necessary to prevent the pregnant woman's death.

6 *j.* Maintain confidentiality of all data, files, and records  
7 related to the ~~program~~ pregnancy support services provided  
8 to persons accessing ~~program~~ the pregnancy support services  
9 through the program in compliance with state and federal laws.

10 ~~5. The department shall publish the program administrator~~  
11 ~~and subcontractor criteria on the department's internet site.~~

12 ~~6.~~ 5. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
13 17A to administer the program, ~~and.~~ If the department selects  
14 a program administrator through a request for proposals  
15 process, the department shall provide technical assistance to  
16 the program administrator, monitor the program administrator  
17 for adherence to state and federal requirements, and collect  
18 and maintain program data.

19 ~~7.~~ 6. Beginning October 1, ~~2023~~ 2024, and on or before  
20 October 1 annually thereafter, the department shall submit to  
21 the general assembly the following program information relative  
22 to the prior fiscal year:

23 *a.* The total number of ~~subcontractors~~ providers of pregnancy  
24 support services by geographical region and the total number  
25 of unduplicated clients served by each ~~subcontractor~~ provider  
26 by gender and age.

27 *b.* A description of outreach efforts by ~~the an~~  
28 administrator, ~~subcontractors~~ providers of pregnancy support  
29 services, and the department.

30 *c.* Total program expenditures.

31 *d.* The amounts attributable to ~~the~~ any program administrator  
32 contract and to each contract with ~~the subcontractors~~ a  
33 provider of pregnancy support services.

34 *e.* The outcomes based on outcome measures included in  
35 the contracts with ~~the~~ any program administrator and each

1 ~~subcontractor~~ provider of pregnancy support services.

2 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
3 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 Sec. 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This Act applies  
5 retroactively to July 1, 2022.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill relates to the more options for maternal support  
10 (MOMS) program.

11 Under Code section 217.41C, the MOMS program is required  
12 to be administered by the department of health and human  
13 services (HHS) through an administrator selected by a request  
14 for proposals (RFP) process. The bill amends this provision  
15 to authorize HHS to either administer the program directly  
16 through contracts with providers of pregnancy support services  
17 (providers), or through a program administrator selected  
18 through an RFP process. The bill also eliminates the reference  
19 to subcontractors and instead refers to providers and makes  
20 requirements for the former subcontractors applicable to these  
21 providers. The bill eliminates the requirement that HHS  
22 publish the program administrator and subcontractor criteria on  
23 the HHS internet site.

24 The bill changes the date by which HHS is required to begin  
25 submitting an annual report regarding the program to the  
26 general assembly from October 1, 2023, to October 1, 2024.

27 The bill makes conforming changes to Code section 217.41C  
28 to reflect the optional use of a program administrator and the  
29 elimination of program subcontractors.

30 The bill takes effect upon enactment and is retroactively  
31 applicable to July 1, 2022, the original effective date of the  
32 Code section.