

**House File 277 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 277  
BY KAUFMANN

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act removing birth centers from the meaning of institutional
- 2 health facility.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 10A.711, subsection 3, Code 2025, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 10A.711, subsection 13, paragraph f, Code  
4 2025, is amended by striking the paragraph.

5 Sec. 3. Section 135.119, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
6 2025, is amended by striking the paragraph.

7 Sec. 4. Section 135.131, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
8 2025, is amended to read as follows:

9 a. "Birth center" means ~~birth center as defined in section~~  
10 ~~10A.711~~ a facility or institution, which is not an ambulatory  
11 surgical center or a hospital or in a hospital, in which births  
12 are planned to occur following a normal, uncomplicated, low-risk  
13 pregnancy.

14 Sec. 5. Section 135P.1, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 3. "Health facility" means an institutional health facility  
17 as defined in section 10A.711, a birth center as defined in  
18 section 135.131, a hospice licensed under chapter 135J, a  
19 home health agency as defined in section 144D.1, an assisted  
20 living program certified under chapter 231C, a clinic, a  
21 community health center, or the university of Iowa hospitals and  
22 clinics, and includes any corporation, professional corporation,  
23 partnership, limited liability company, limited liability  
24 partnership, or other entity comprised of such health facilities.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 This bill removes birth centers from the meaning of  
29 institutional health facility (facility). Under current law,  
30 certain health care providers are required to obtain a  
31 certificate of need (CON) from the department of inspections,  
32 appeals, and licensing prior to creating or expanding a facility  
33 or introducing certain medical services within a specific area.  
34 By operation of law, removing birth centers from the meaning of  
35 facility would allow health care providers to create, relocate,

1 expand, or offer new services in birth centers without the need  
2 to obtain a CON.

3 The bill makes conforming changes to Code sections 10A.711  
4 (health facilities council — definitions), 135.119 (shaken  
5 baby syndrome prevention program), 135.131 (universal newborn  
6 and infant hearing screening), and 135P.1 (adverse health care  
7 incidents — communication — confidentiality).

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