

House File 589 - Introduced

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BY YOUNG, GEHLBACH, and ANDREWS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating the compassion and care for medically challenging
2 pregnancies Act.

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

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **135S.1 Title.**

2 This chapter shall be known as the "Compassion and Care for
3 *Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act*".

4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **135S.2 Definitions.**

5 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise
6 requires:

7 1. "Department" means the department of health and human
8 services.

9 2. "Health care practitioner" means a physician licensed
10 pursuant to chapter 148, an advanced registered nurse
11 practitioner licensed pursuant to chapter 152, or an advanced
12 practice registered nurse under chapter 152E.

13 3. "Lethal fetal anomaly" means a fetal condition diagnosed
14 before birth that will, with reasonable certainty, result in the
15 death of the child three months after birth.

16 4. "Perinatal hospice service" means comprehensive support
17 to a pregnant woman and her family that includes support from
18 the time of diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly, through the
19 time of birth and the death of the infant, and through the
20 postpartum period. "Perinatal hospice services" may include but
21 are not limited to counseling and medical care by maternal-fetal
22 medical specialists, obstetricians, neonatologists, anesthesia
23 specialists, clergy, social workers, and specialty nurses focused
24 on alleviating fear and ensuring that the pregnant woman and
25 her family experience the life and death of the child in a
26 comfortable and supportive environment.

27 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **135S.3 Perinatal hospice services —**
28 **health care practitioner role — list and information.**

29 1. A health care practitioner who diagnoses a lethal fetal
30 anomaly may do any of the following:

31 a. Inform the pregnant woman, orally and in person, that
32 perinatal hospice services are available and offer to refer the
33 pregnant woman for such services.

34 b. Provide the pregnant woman with the list and information
35 sheet regarding available perinatal hospice services compiled and

1 provided by the department pursuant to subsection 2.

2 2. a. The department shall compile a geographically
3 organized list of, and an information sheet regarding, perinatal
4 hospice services available in Iowa and nationally.

5 b. The department shall post the list and information sheet
6 compiled under this subsection, available in both English and
7 Spanish, on the department's internet site.

8 c. The internet site and information sheet shall include all
9 of the following:

10 (1) A statement indicating that perinatal hospice services
11 are an innovative and compassionate model of support for a
12 pregnant woman who is informed that her baby has a lethal fetal
13 anomaly and chooses to continue her pregnancy.

14 (2) A general description of the perinatal hospice services
15 available.

16 (3) At the request of a perinatal hospice service included on
17 the list, the perinatal hospice service's informational materials
18 and contact information, including whether twenty-four-hour
19 perinatal hospice services are available.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill creates the "Compassion and Care for Medically
24 Challenging Pregnancies Act".

25 The bill provides definitions for "department", "health care
26 practitioner", "lethal fetal anomaly", and "perinatal hospice
27 service" as used in the bill.

28 The bill provides that a health care practitioner who
29 diagnoses a lethal fetal anomaly may inform the pregnant woman,
30 orally and in person, that perinatal hospice services are
31 available and offer to refer the pregnant woman for such
32 services; or provide the pregnant woman with the list and
33 information sheet regarding available perinatal hospice services
34 compiled and provided by the department of health and human
35 services (HHS).

1 The bill requires HHS to compile a geographically organized
2 list of, and an information sheet regarding, perinatal hospice
3 services available in Iowa and nationally. HHS shall post
4 the list and information sheet, available in both English
5 and Spanish, on HHS's internet site. The internet site and
6 information sheet shall include a statement indicating that
7 perinatal hospice services are an innovative and compassionate
8 model of support for the pregnant woman who is informed that
9 her baby has a lethal fetal anomaly and chooses to continue
10 her pregnancy; a general description of the perinatal hospice
11 services available; and at the request of a perinatal hospice
12 service included on the list, the perinatal hospice service's
13 informational materials and contact information, including
14 whether 24-hour perinatal hospice services are available.

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