

ASSEMBLY, No. 1846

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires midwives and physicians to provide pregnant women information on birthing options prior to delivery.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning pregnancy and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 "Certified nurse midwife" means a midwife licensed by the State
9 Board of Medical Examiners as a certified nurse midwife pursuant
10 to the provisions of P.L.1991, c.97 (C.45:10-17 et al.).

11 "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine
12 and surgery in this State.

13 b. A certified nurse midwife or physician who practices
14 obstetrics shall provide a pregnant patient, in writing in either
15 English, Arabic, Chinese, Creole, French, or Spanish, during the
16 initial consultation, and prior to the onset of labor as determined by
17 the Department of Health, with information on all birthing options
18 that are available to the patient, including, but not limited to,
19 planned hospital birth induced with Pitocin or an epidural, hospital
20 water births, home water births; hospital non-Medicaid births; home
21 non-Medicaid births; scheduled births and scheduled C-sections;
22 emergency C-sections, health risks associated with each birthing
23 option, health risks to the mother and infant associated with an
24 epidural, Pitocin, and other medications, and a list of birthing
25 options that are covered by the patient's health insurance carrier.

26

27 2. The Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules and
28 regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
29 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate
30 the provisions of this act.

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32 3. This act shall take effect 180 days after the date of
33 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires midwives and physicians who practice
39 obstetrics to provide pregnant women information on birthing
40 options prior to delivery.

41 Under the bill, a certified nurse midwife or physician is to
42 provide a pregnant patient, in writing in either English, Arabic,
43 Chinese, Creole, French, or Spanish, during the initial consultation,
44 and prior to the onset of labor as determined by the Department of
45 Health, with information on all birthing options that are available to
46 the patient, including, but not limited to, planned hospital birth
47 induced with Pitocin or an epidural, hospital water births, home
48 water births; hospital non-Medicaid births; home non-Medicaid

1 births; scheduled births and scheduled C-sections; emergency C-
2 sections, health risks associated with each birthing option, health
3 risks to the mother and infant associated with an epidural, Pitocin,
4 and other medications, and a list of birthing options that are covered
5 by the patient's health insurance carrier. The Commissioner of
6 Health is to promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary to
7 effectuate the provisions of this bill.