

# ASSEMBLY, No. 804

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**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: 2/3/2022)**

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.