

By: Representatives McLean, Summers, Butler-
Washington, James-Jones

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 927

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF
2 PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY; TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
3 THE ACT; TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE ACT; TO
4 PROVIDE THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR LICENSED MIDWIVES; TO PROVIDE
5 MANDATORY PROCEDURES FOR LICENSED MIDWIVES; TO PROHIBIT LICENSED
6 MIDWIVES FROM CERTAIN ACTIONS; TO CREATE THE STATE BOARD OF
7 LICENSED MIDWIFERY AND PROVIDE FOR ITS COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENT
8 AND POWERS AND DUTIES; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO PROMULGATE RULES
9 NOT LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026; TO REQUIRE A LICENSE FROM THE BOARD
10 TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
11 TEMPORARY PERMITS TO PRACTICE PENDING QUALIFICATION FOR LICENSURE;
12 TO PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSURE FOR CERTAIN PERSONS; TO
13 PROVIDE FOR THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY THE
14 BOARD; TO PROVIDE IMMUNITY FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS; TO PROVIDE
15 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; TO PROHIBIT TERMINOLOGY IN
16 ANY HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN, POLICY OR CONTRACT THAT IS
17 DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY; TO REQUIRE HEALTH
18 COVERAGE PLANS THAT PROVIDE MATERNITY BENEFITS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
19 FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY A LICENSED MIDWIFE; TO PROVIDE WHENEVER A
20 HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN PROVIDES FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ANY SERVICES
21 THAT ARE WITHIN THE LAWFUL SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF LICENSED MIDWIVES,
22 THE PERSON ENTITLED TO BENEFITS UNDER THE PLAN SHALL BE ENTITLED
23 TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SERVICES, WHETHER THE SERVICES ARE
24 PERFORMED BY A PHYSICIAN OR A LICENSED MIDWIFE; TO REQUIRE THE
25 STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP AND INSTITUTE A SAFE
26 PERINATAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATION FOR THE FACILITIES THAT IT
27 REGULATES; TO AMEND SECTION 73-25-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
28 REMOVE THE REFERENCE TO THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY IN THE
29 DEFINITION OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:



31 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This act shall be known and may be
32 cited as the "Mississippi Midwifery License Law."

33 **SECTION 2. Legislative Purpose.** (1) The midwifery model of
34 care emphasizes patient-centered care that considers the whole
35 person and prioritizes autonomy, consent and collaboration;
36 focuses on maximizing the health and wellness of a woman and her
37 baby; and attends to the emotional, social and spiritual aspects
38 of pregnancy and birth. Professional midwives offer an
39 evidence-based model of perinatal care that views birth as a
40 normal physiologic process and seeks medical expertise and
41 interventions as warranted. Increased access to professional
42 midwives positively affects maternal and infant health outcomes.

43 (2) Midwifery is a profession in its own right and it is not
44 the practice of medicine. Community-based midwives have
45 historically served an indispensable public health role in
46 promoting the health and well-being of Mississippi mothers and
47 infants. Mississippi's current rates of preterm births, low birth
48 weights, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and rural hospital
49 closures would benefit from increased access to professional
50 midwifery care in community settings.

51 (3) Research demonstrates that integration and coordination
52 across birth settings and maternity care providers promote
53 high-quality, cost-effective care. Specifically, the integration
54 of community-based midwives into regional maternity care systems
55 is a key determinant of improving perinatal outcomes. Regulation



of the practice of professional midwifery is necessary to facilitate the integration of professional midwives into Mississippi's maternity care system.

(4) Parents have the freedom to choose the manner, place, and attendant for giving birth. Regulating and licensing professional midwives in community settings will increase access to birthing options for the families of Mississippi and preserve parental choice.

(5) Within the State of Mississippi, mothers and families seek out alternatives to hospital births and they find significant value in perinatal services offered in community settings. The term "midwife" connotes to consumers and the community an expectation of professionalism and a minimum level of competency and care. Community-based midwives are currently serving Mississippi families in the absence of any licensure mechanism.

(6) Therefore, the Legislature authorizes the recognition and licensure of the practice of professional midwifery in community settings. For the purpose of increasing the access to midwifery care in the community setting, providing for the health and welfare of women and infants, the Legislature declares that the Mississippi Midwifery Licensure Law shall provide for the licensure of professional midwives, create mechanisms for oversight and accountability, facilitate informed consent, and preserve parental freedom and choice in the setting for which they give birth.



81 **SECTION 3. Definitions.** As used in this act, the following

82 terms shall be defined as provided in this section:

83 (a) "Antepartum" means the stage of care that begins
84 when a pregnant woman presents herself for care during pregnancy
85 and ends at the onset of labor.

86 (b) "Apprentice" means an individual at the
87 apprenticeship level of midwifery training who is obtaining
88 clinical experience under the supervision of a qualified, licensed
89 midwife by providing midwifery care under the supervision of such
90 a preceptor.

91 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi State Board of
92 Licensed Midwifery, which is created in Section 6 of this act.

93 (d) "Certified nurse midwife" means an advanced
94 practice registered nurse certified by the American Midwifery
95 Certification Board whose practice is regulated by Section 73-15-1
96 et seq.

97 (e) "Client" means an individual receiving professional
98 midwifery services from a licensed midwife. Because the midwifery
99 model of care characterizes pregnancy as a normal physiologic
100 process rather than a medical event, the term "client" is
101 preferred over the term "patient" by professional midwives as well
102 as the families they serve. Within this act, however, the term
103 "patient" may also be used to refer to an individual receiving
104 professional midwifery services from a licensed midwife.



(f) "Intrapartum" means occurring from the onset of labor until after the delivery of the placenta.

(g) "Licensed midwife" means an individual who practices professional midwifery in community settings and has met the licensing requirements established by this act and its implementing rules as promulgated by the board.

(h) "Neonate" means a newborn child in its first four (4) weeks of life.

(i) "Neonatal period" means the first four (4) weeks of a child's life.

(j) "Normal" means, as applied to the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods and the neonatal period, and as defined by board rule, circumstances under which a midwife has determined that a client does not have a condition that requires medical intervention.

(k) "Physician" means an individual engaged in the practice of medicine and duly licensed by the State Board of Medical Licensure whose practice is regulated by Section 73-25-1 et seq.

(l) "Postpartum period" means the first six (6) weeks after a woman has given birth.

(m) "Professional midwifery" means the studied, skilled practice of providing primary maternity care consistent with a midwife's training, education and experience to women and neonates during the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods.



130 **SECTION 4. Applicability.** This act does not apply to:

131 (a) A certified nurse midwife, a physician or any
132 health care professional licensed by the state who is providing
133 care within the scope of his or her license;

134 (b) A student midwife who is engaged in didactic
135 learning and providing clinical care supervised by a licensed
136 midwife;

137 (c) A doula, childbirth instructor, lactation
138 consultant or other layperson offering nonclinical support during
139 the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods; or

140 (d) Any person who assists with childbirth in an
141 emergency where medical or midwifery care is not available.

142 **SECTION 5. Scope of practice; practice parameters; mandatory**
143 **procedures; prohibitions; discrimination prohibited.** (1) The
144 scope of practice of licensed midwives shall consist of:

145 (a) Providing primary maternity care that is consistent
146 with a midwife's training, education and experience to low-risk
147 women and their neonates during normal antepartum, intrapartum and
148 postpartum periods, as further articulated by the board based on
149 definitions established by national and international professional
150 associations and certifying bodies;

151 (b) Nonprescriptive family planning and basic
152 well-woman care, including, but not limited to, Pap tests,
153 sexually transmitted infection screenings, preconception



screenings, and other acts, tasks, or functions authorized by the board; and

(c) Consulting and collaborating with other licensed health care providers, including, but not limited to, the referral of women or their neonates to a higher level of care with an appropriate licensed health care provider when the licensed midwife determines that the pregnancy, labor, delivery, postpartum period or neonatal period may not be classified as normal as defined by this act or according to rules promulgated by the board.

(2) Prescriptive authority and the possession and administration of controlled substances by licensed midwives are prohibited. When acting within their scope of practice, licensed midwives may obtain, transport, and administer the following medications:

- (a) Vitamin K;
- (b) Antihemorrhagic agents;
- (c) Local anesthetics;
- (d) Oxygen;
- (e) Prophylactic eye agents;
- (f) RhoGam or other prophylactic immunoglobulins;
- (g) Intravenous fluids; and
- (h) Any other drug that is consistent with the scope of practice of professional midwifery in community settings and is authorized by the board by rule.



179 (3) A licensed midwife may directly obtain supplies and
180 devices, medications within the scope of practice, order and
181 obtain screening tests including ultrasound tests, and receive
182 verbal and written reports of the results of those tests as
183 necessary for the practice of professional midwifery in community
184 settings and consistent with the scope of practice of licensed
185 midwives.

186 (4) Licensed midwives shall:

187 (a) Register and maintain current contact information
188 with the board following procedures developed by the board and
189 promulgated by rule for the publication of an official roster of
190 licensed midwives.

191 (b) Register births with the State Registrar of Vital
192 Records in accordance with the rules promulgated by the State
193 Department of Health.

194 (c) Report client statistical data to the board or
195 other national entities as required by rules promulgated by the
196 board.

197 (d) Provide certain disclosures in writing at the
198 inception of care for a client, including, but not limited to, the
199 following:

200 (i) The licensed midwife's education, training and
201 qualifications;



(ii) The licensed midwife's criteria for referring a client to a licensed health care provider for a higher level of care;

(iii) The licensed midwife's criteria for effecting an emergency transfer to a hospital;

(iv) Whether the midwife has malpractice liability insurance coverage in effect and, if so, the policy limitations of that coverage;

(v) Notice that the licensed midwife has certain statistical data reporting obligations to the board that are not optional but that may be anonymized;

(vi) The licensed midwife's disciplinary history with the board, including whether any disciplinary action is currently pending against them by the board;

(vii) The procedures a client can take to initiate disciplinary action against a licensed midwife; and

(viii) Any other information required by rules promulgated by the board.

(5) It shall be unlawful for licensed midwives to:

(a) Perform surgical procedures other than episiotomies or repairs of perineal lacerations;

(b) Use forceps or vacuum extraction;

(c) Aid or abet an unlicensed person to practice as a licensed midwife;



(d) Negligently, willfully, or intentionally act in a manner inconsistent with the health and safety of those entrusted to the licensed midwife's care;

(e) Engage in substandard, unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, or any other form of misconduct as defined by the board; and

(f) Engage in any other act, task or function prohibited in rules promulgated by the board.

(6) Nothing in this act shall be construed to permit the practice of medicine by licensed midwives since midwifery is not the practice of medicine.

SECTION 6. State Board of Licensed Midwifery created; composition; powers and duties. (1) The State Board of Licensed Midwifery is created to regulate autonomous professional midwifery practice in community settings within Mississippi.

(a) The board shall consist of eight (8) persons and be comprised of:

(i) Six (6) midwives each of whom has at least two (2) years experience in Mississippi in the practice of midwifery in community settings;

(ii) One (1) perinatal care provider who is certified by a national professional organization; and

(iii) One (1) member who represents the public and who is not practicing or trained in a health care profession, and



who is a parent with at least one (1) child born with the assistance of a midwife or a certified nurse midwife.

(b) Board members shall be resident citizens of the State of Mississippi and appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall accept and consider lists of nominees from any interested individual or organization, and shall prioritize the appointment of nominees made by the following organizations or their successors:

- (i) The State Department of Health;
- (ii) The Association of Mississippi Midwives;
- (iii) The Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative;
- (iv) The Mississippi Public Health Institute;
- (v) The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health; and
- (vi) Better Birth Mississippi.

Any such list of nominees from the organizations listed in this paragraph (b) shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days before the expiration of the term for each position.

(c) The initial appointments to the board shall be for staggered terms, to be designated by the Governor at the time of appointment as follows: four (4) members shall serve for terms ending on July 1, 2027; three (3) members shall serve for terms ending on July 1, 2028; and one (1) member shall serve for a term



ending on July 1, 2029. All later appointments shall be for terms of four (4) years from the expiration date of the previous term.

(d) The Governor shall fill a vacancy no later than sixty (60) days from the date the vacancy occurs. Members may hold office until their successors have been appointed.

(e) Board members shall not be compensated for their service, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and ordinary expenses and mileage incurred while performing their duties as members of the board as provided in Section 25-3-41, to be paid from the special fund of the board.

(2) Not later than July 1, 2026, the board shall promulgate rules that, at a minimum:

(a) Establish and implement a program for qualified individuals to apply and obtain licensure as a licensed midwife, including, but not limited to:

(i) Developing policies and procedures for temporary permits, initial licensing, renewals and reinstatement of lapsed licenses; and

(ii) A fee schedule for applications, temporary permits, initial licenses, renewals and reinstatements. The board shall review its fee schedule every four (4) years and update fees as necessary for the growth and sustainability of the profession;

(b) Develop educational standards, including, but not limited to:



(i) Identifying the basic minimum educational standards, including the type of courses and number of hours required, that qualify an applicant to seek licensure;

(ii) Developing methods and requirements for ensuring the continued competence of licensed midwives through continuing midwifery education, including the type of courses and number of hours required, as a condition for license renewal; and

(iii) Approving educational programs, institutions, instructors and facilities that meet the basic and continuing professional midwifery educational requirements for practice within Mississippi;

(c) Prescribe standards and competencies for the practice of professional midwifery in community settings within Mississippi based on criteria established by national and international professional associations and certifying bodies;

(d) Delineate specific symptoms and conditions that require collaboration, consultation, or referral of a client by a licensed midwife to a physician or other appropriate licensed health care provider, and establish the process for such collaboration, consultation, or referral. Such rules shall promote informed consent and preserve parental choice;

(e) Exercise its disciplinary authority by establishing and implementing formal disciplinary processes and procedures.

(i) The board shall develop and prescribe procedures for investigating, processing and resolving complaints,



violations, probations, suspensions, revocations and
reinstatements, including, but not limited to:

1. Complaints of professional misconduct;
2. Allegations that licensed midwives are
violating the provisions of this act or its implementing rules;
3. Grievances from applicants and licensees
regarding agency action.

(ii) All procedures implementing the board's
disciplinary authority shall incorporate notice, the opportunity
to be heard, and a decision by a neutral decision-maker. Final
agency decisions will be subject to judicial review; and

(f) Collect, analyze, share and publish anonymized
statistical perinatal outcome data from licensed midwives and
individuals holding temporary permits, including, but not limited
to, live births, fetal demises and neonatal and maternal deaths.
Rules regarding data sharing shall preserve public access.

(3) In promulgating the rules described in subsection (2) of
this section, the board shall consider any data, views, questions,
and arguments submitted by:

- (a) The State Department of Health;
- (b) The Association of Mississippi Midwives;
- (c) The Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative;
- (d) The Mississippi Public Health Institute;
- (e) The Institute for the Advancement of Minority
Health; and



348 (f) Better Birth Mississippi.

349 (4) The board shall develop, publish and maintain an
350 official roster of licensed midwives and individuals holding
351 temporary permits that can be accessed by the public at no cost.
352 The roster shall reflect the statistical outcome data and
353 disciplinary history of each licensee and permit-holder.

354 (5) The board shall deposit all funds received from the
355 collection of application and licensure fees and the levying of
356 disciplinary fines into a special fund that is created in the
357 State Treasury to be known as the Board of Licensed Midwifery
358 Fund. Monies in the special fund shall be used by the board, upon
359 appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of administering
360 this act. Any interest earned on the special fund shall be
361 credited to the special fund and shall not be paid into the State
362 General Fund. Any monies remaining in the special fund at the end
363 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund.

364 (6) The board is authorized to contract with third-party
365 entities to perform clerical and administrative tasks and
366 functions related to the logistical implementation of midwifery
367 licensure under this act.

368 (7) The board may promulgate any and all additional rules it
369 deems necessary to effectively regulate the practice of licensed
370 midwives to the extent that those additional rules do not violate
371 any terms or provisions of this act.



372 **SECTION 7. License required; temporary permits; exemptions;**
373 **qualifications.** (1) Beginning on the effective date of the

374 initial rules promulgated by the board under Section 6 of this
375 act, it shall be unlawful for any person to provide professional
376 midwifery care within the State of Mississippi without first
377 obtaining a license from the board in accordance with its rules.

378 (2) The board shall promulgate rules allowing for the
379 expedited issuance of temporary permits authorizing an individual
380 to practice professional midwifery pending qualification for
381 licensure.

382 (a) Temporary permits shall be issued for a term of
383 twenty-four (24) months and may not be renewed except as follows:
384 A temporary permit issued to an apprentice may be renewed upon a
385 showing to the board that the apprentice has good cause for not
386 completing their clinical training within the initial temporary
387 permit period.

388 (b) An applicant who is granted a temporary permit
389 under this section is subject to all other requirements of this
390 act and rules promulgated by the board, and the board may
391 automatically void the temporary permit if the applicant fails to
392 comply with those requirements.

393 (c) An individual who paid an application fee in
394 connection with an application for a temporary permit under this
395 section is not required to pay a separate application fee in
396 connection with their application for an initial license if the



board receives the application for an initial license within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the temporary permit.

(d) To qualify for a temporary permit to practice professional midwifery, an individual must:

(i) Be an apprentice working under the supervision of a licensed midwife;

(ii) Be licensed in good standing as a midwife in another state at the time of application; or

(iii) Be engaged in providing professional midwifery services to one or more Mississippi families on the effective date of the initial rules promulgated by the board, as evidenced by a contractual agreement to render such services.

(e) An individual seeking a temporary permit under this subsection (2) must submit an application for full licensure within twelve (12) months after the effective date of the initial rules promulgated by the board.

(3) Licensure under this act is not required for:

(a) An employee or other individual who is assisting a midwife and who is under the midwife's supervision from performing activities or functions that are delegated by the midwife, that are nondiscretionary, that do not require the exercise of professional judgment for their performance, and that are within the midwife's authority to perform; and



(b) An individual providing uncompensated care to a friend or family member if the individual does not hold themselves out to the public as a licensed midwife.

(4) Nothing in this act shall prohibit a traditional birth attendant from providing care that falls within the scope of midwifery practice without a license where the traditional birth attendant is fulfilling a cultural or religious role that has historically included the provision of care at birth, and the traditional birth attendant only offers such services to women and families within that distinct cultural or religious group.

SECTION 8. Confidentiality. (1) All statistical data reporting and sharing by the board shall be anonymized prior to dissemination or publication.

(2) The board shall keep all information relating to the receipt and investigation of complaints filed against licensees or applicants confidential until the information is disclosed in the course of the investigation or any later proceeding before the board. Client records, including clinical records, files, any other report or oral statement relating to diagnostic findings or clinical treatment of clients, any information from which a client or her family might be identified, or information received and records or reports kept by the board as a result of an investigation made under this act shall be exempt from the provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 and shall be kept confidential by the board.



445 **SECTION 9. Immunity.** (1) Nothing in this act shall create

446 liability of any kind for a licensed health care provider who
447 provides care to a client of a licensed midwife for personal
448 injury or death resulting from an act or omission by the midwife,
449 unless the professional negligence or malpractice of the health
450 care provider was a proximate cause of the injury or death.

451 (2) No duly licensed midwife who, in good faith and in the
452 exercise of reasonable care, renders aid in emergency childbirth,
453 or assists in transporting a laboring mother to a place where
454 medical assistance can be reasonably expected, shall be liable for
455 any civil damages to the mother or infant as a result of any acts
456 committed in good faith and in the exercise of reasonable care or
457 omissions in good faith and in the exercise of reasonable care by
458 such midwife in rendering aid in the emergency.

459 **SECTION 10. Offenses; penalties.** (1) It is unlawful for

460 any person to:

461 (a) Offer or engage in the provision of professional
462 midwifery services unless duly licensed to do so under the
463 provisions of this act;

464 (b) Impersonate in any manner or pretend to be a
465 licensed midwife or use the title "Licensed Midwife," the letters
466 "L.M." or any other words, letters, signs, symbols or devices to
467 indicate the person using them is a licensed midwife, unless duly
468 authorized by the license or permit under the provisions of this
469 act;



(c) Provide midwifery care during the time their license or temporary permit is suspended, revoked, lapsed or expired;

(d) Fail to notify the board of the suspension, probation or revocation of any past or currently held licenses required to practice midwifery in any other jurisdiction;

(e) Make false representations or impersonate or act as a proxy for another person or allow or aid any person to impersonate them in connection with any application for licensing or request to be licensed; or

(f) Otherwise violate any provisions of this act.

(2) (a) For the first violation and subsequent violations of any provision of this section, the board shall impose a monetary penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

(b) In addition to a monetary penalty, the board may revoke the license of a midwife or suspend the license for up to two (2) years without review.

(c) In addition to or as an alternative to revoking or suspending the license of a midwife, the board may require the midwife to complete education programs, participate in supervised practice, or submit to care or counseling.

SECTION 11. (1) Terminology in any health coverage plan, policy or contract deemed discriminatory against professional midwifery, community perinatal care, or the midwifery model of



care or that inhibits reimbursement for such services at the in-network rate is void and unenforceable.

(2) Any health coverage plan amended, delivered, issued, or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2026, that provides maternity benefits that are not limited to complications of pregnancy, or newborn care benefits, shall provide coverage for maternity services and perinatal care rendered by a licensed midwife licensed under this act, regardless of the site of services. The coverage provided for in this section may be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance and copayments.

(3) A health coverage plan amended, delivered, issued or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2026, shall not differentiate between perinatal services performed by a professional midwife within their lawful scope of practice and perinatal services by a physician with respect to copayment or annual deductible amounts or coinsurance percentages.

(4) Whenever any health coverage plan amended, delivered, issued, or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2026, provides for reimbursement of any services that are within the lawful scope of practice of licensed midwives, the insured or other person entitled to benefits under the health coverage plan shall be entitled to reimbursement for the services, whether the services are performed by a physician or a licensed midwife.

(5) The provisions of this section apply to any new policy, contract, program or health coverage plan issued on and after



January 1, 2026. Any policy, contract or health coverage plan in effect before January 1, 2026, shall convert to conform to the provisions of this act on or before the renewal date, but no later than January 1, 2027.

(6) Nothing in this section shall restrict the Division of Medicaid from setting rules and regulations regarding the coverage of professional midwifery services and nothing in this section shall amend or change the Division of Medicaid's schedule of benefits, exclusions and/or limitations related to obstetric and/or midwifery services as determined by state or federal regulations and state and federal law.

SECTION 12. (1) A licensed provider who regularly provides health care services related to labor and delivery shall:

(a) Be able to identify when to transmit and receive patient information, and transfer and receive patients, across the facility's levels of care; and

(b) Coordinate with other licensed providers to effectuate services across the facility's levels of care in a way that prevents patients from losing access to care.

(2) The acceptance of a transferred perinatal patient does not establish an employment or supervisory relationship between the accepting licensed provider and the transferring licensed provider or establish grounds for vicarious liability.

(3) Within twenty-four (24) months from the effective date of the initial rules promulgated by the board, the Division of



Health Facilities Licensure and Certification of the State
Department of Health shall develop and institute a safe perinatal
transfer certification for the facilities that it regulates.

(4) In developing the safe perinatal transfer certification,
the division shall incorporate input and feedback from:

(a) Interested and affected stakeholders, with a focus
on pregnant women and those in the postpartum period and their
family members;

(b) Multidisciplinary, nonprofit organizations
representing pregnant women and those in the postpartum period,
with a focus on individuals from racial and ethnic minority
groups; and

(c) Multidisciplinary, community-based organizations
that provide support or advocacy for pregnant women and those in
the postpartum period, with a focus on persons from racial and
ethnic minority groups.

(5) Nothing in this act shall prohibit licensed providers or
facilities from billing for health care services rendered,
including maternity care and perinatal care.

SECTION 13. Section 73-25-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

73-25-33. (1) The practice of medicine shall mean to
suggest, recommend, prescribe, or direct for the use of any
person, any drug, medicine, appliance, or other agency, whether
material or not material, for the cure, relief, or palliation of



any ailment or disease of the mind or body, or for the cure or relief of any wound or fracture or other bodily injury or deformity, or the practice of obstetrics or midwifery, after having received, or with the intent of receiving therefor, either directly or indirectly, any bonus, gift, profit or compensation * * *.

(2) The practice of medicine shall not mean to provide gender transition procedures for any person under eighteen (18) years of age; or

(3) For purposes of this section, "gender transition procedures" means the same as defined in Section 41-141-3.

SECTION 14. Sections 1 through 10 of this act shall be codified as a new chapter in Title 73 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. Section 11 of this act shall be codified as a new section in Article 5, Chapter 41, Title 83 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 15. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

