

HB 974 -- Midwifery

Sponsor: Davis

This bill specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly to recognize the right of a woman to give birth in the setting and with the caregiver of her choice. A caregiver includes a person who provides midwifery services; however, this service does not include the practice of medicine, nursing, nurse-midwifery, or any other medical or healing practice.

Every midwife is required to provide a written disclosure statement informing each client of his or her current certified professional midwife credentials, completion of at least 10 hours per year of continuing education and three hours of peer review, and an affidavit stating that he or she has attended a minimum of 40 births in the home setting. The disclosure must also state the number of years of experience, number of deliveries as a midwife, possible benefits and risks, certification in CPR or neonatal resuscitation, malpractice or liability insurance coverage, and a contingency plan in the event of an emergency.

A midwife does not have to provide a current certified professional midwife credential, as long as the individual is at least 21 years of age, is a resident of this state, has passed the North American Registry of Midwives Skills Assessment, and provides an affidavit that he or she has provided the service of midwifery for at least 15 of the last 20 years prior to August 28, 2006. Only the midwife who provided care to the client will be held liable for negligent, willful, or wanton acts or omissions.