

HB 503 -- Licensure of Midwives

Sponsor: Portwood

This bill establishes the Board of Direct-Entry Midwives in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration. The bill:

- (1) Authorizes the board to issue licenses to applicants with a current certification from the North American Registry of Midwives as a certified professional midwife;
- (2) Requires applicants to submit evidence of his or her current certification in adult and infant CPR and either infant CPR or neonatal resuscitation;
- (3) Authorizes the board to issue, refuse to issue, or renew licenses for reasons specified in the bill;
- (4) Allows the board to file complaints with the Administrative Hearing Commission against licensees;
- (5) Creates within the state treasury the Board of Direct-Entry Midwives Fund;
- (6) Requires licensees to submit a written disclosure statement to each client specifying the practice of midwifery and their training, experience, liability coverage, and emergency medical plan;
- (7) Specifies that no person other than the direct-entry midwife who provided care will be liable for his or her negligence, acts, or omissions and that no licensed physician, licensed nurse, certified nurse midwife, hospital, or emergency medical technician will be exempt from liability for his or her own negligence, acts, or omissions;
- (8) Specifies that a licensee will not be considered to be engaged in the practice of medicine, nursing, or any other medical or healing practice; and
- (9) Prohibits licensees from prescribing drugs; performing vacuum deliveries, medical inductions, or cesarean sections; or using forceps during a delivery.