

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Children and Families

The bill establishes the Perinatal Advisory Council which must be composed of geographically diverse representatives from specified organizations who must focus on and have experience in maternal and infant health, one of whom must be elected chair by a majority of the members, to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. After seeking broad public and stakeholder input during multiple hearings in diverse geographic regions of the state, the council must make recommendations in the best interest of patients for the division of the state into neonatal and maternal care regions. When making the recommendations the council must make specified considerations. The council must establish criteria for levels of maternal care designations and levels of neonatal care designations for birthing facilities and regional perinatal centers. The levels developed under these provisions must be based on specified criteria.

Nothing in these provisions must be construed in any way to modify or expand the licensure of any health care professional or to require a patient be transferred to a different facility.

Beginning January 1, 2017, hospital applications for license must include the appropriate level of neonatal care designations and levels of maternal care designations for birthing facilities and regional perinatal centers as determined by the council under these provisions. Beginning January 1, 2018, any hospital with a birthing facility must report to the department its appropriate level of maternal care designation and neonatal care designation as determined by the criteria specified under these provisions.

Nothing in these provisions must be construed to impose liability for referral or failure to refer in accordance with the recommendations of the council. The department may partner with appropriate nationally recognized professional organizations with demonstrated expertise in maternal and neonatal standards of care to administer these provisions.

This bill is similar to HCS SCS SB 230 (2015).