

HOUSE BILL NO. 2738

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG.

5349H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 191, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to the establishment of a home visit program within the department of social services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 191, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 191.1700 and 191.1702, to read as follows:

191.1700. 1. There is hereby established within the department of social services a home visit program to provide support to women who are pregnant and to women and families caring for a newborn under twelve months of age. The goals of the program shall be to improve maternal and child health, encourage positive parenting, and promote healthy child development. Participation in the program shall be voluntary.

2. Under the program, trained home visitors shall visit the homes of pregnant women and the homes of families caring for a newborn under twelve months of age who have elected to participate in the program. The program shall provide home visiting services that are:

(1) Provided to pregnant women and to families caring for newborns up to twelve months of age, including foster and adoptive newborns;

(2) Provided in the family's home; and

(3) Aimed at improving outcomes in the following areas:

(a) Maternal health;

(b) Child health;

(c) Child development;

(d) Family economic self-sufficiency;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 18 (e) Positive parenting;
19 (f) Reducing child mistreatment; and
20 (g) Reducing family violence.

21 3. The department shall establish guidelines for health care provider risk
22 assessment of women who are pregnant and women who have recently given birth that
23 shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following risk factors:

- 24 (1) Income;
25 (2) Whether the woman is a single or sole provider;
26 (3) Whether the newborn is a first child;
27 (4) Whether the pregnancy or birth is twins or multiples;
28 (5) Whether the woman has a history of mental illness; and
29 (6) Whether the woman is at risk for postpartum depression.

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31 Health care providers who observe-high risk attributes may refer such women and families
32 to the home visit program.

33 4. Services provided under the program shall:

- 34 (1) Be voluntary and carry no negative consequence for a woman or family that
35 declines to participate;
36 (2) Be offered in every community in this state;
37 (3) Include an evidence-based assessment of the physical, social, and emotional
38 factors affecting the family;
39 (4) Be offered to all pregnant women and families with newborns under the twelve
40 months of age residing in the community where the program operates; and
41 (5) Provide information and referrals to address each family's identified needs.

42 5. Home visits conducted under the program shall include
43 support specific for new mothers including, but not limited to:

- 44 (1) Mental health assistance;
45 (2) Stress management;
46 (3) Lactation services and assistance and training in breast feeding or bottle
47 feeding;
48 (4) Instruction on infant care, child development milestones and behaviors, and
49 positive parenting techniques;
50 (5) Working with mothers to set goals for the future, continue their education, and
51 find employment and child care solutions; and
52 (6) Providing information on preventative services, developmental assessments, and
53 the availability of public assistance, as appropriate.

54 **6. The department shall establish training requirements for home visitors and**
55 **minimum requirements for supervision. The department shall provide training for home**
56 **visitors, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:**

57 **(1) Effective relationships for engaging and retaining families and ensuring**
58 **maternal and family health, safety, and early learning;**

59 **(2) Effective methods of implementing parent education, conducting home visiting,**
60 **and promoting quality early childhood development;**

61 **(3) Early childhood development from birth to five years of age;**

62 **(4) Diverse cultural practices in child rearing and family systems;**

63 **(5) Increasing services for underserved populations; and**

64 **(6) Relevant issues related to child welfare and protective services.**

65 **7. The department of social services may promulgate all necessary rules and**
66 **regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**
67 **term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this**
68 **section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions**
69 **of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are**
70 **nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
71 **chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
72 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
73 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.**

74 **8. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:**

75 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall**
76 **automatically sunset six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by**
77 **an act of the general assembly;**

78 **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section**
79 **shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this**
80 **section; and**

81 **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately**
82 **following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.**

191.1702. 1. The department of social services shall develop an informational
2 **brochure containing information about the home visit program established under section**
3 **191.1700. The department shall make the brochure available on its website and distribute**
4 **copies of such brochure to each local health department in the state. Each local health**
5 **department shall distribute copies of the brochure to each health care facility in its**
6 **jurisdiction that provides prenatal care for women. All health care practitioners who**

7 provide prenatal care to women in this state shall be required to offer the brochure to each
8 prenatal patient at the patient's first prenatal appointment with the provider.

9 2. The department of social services may promulgate all necessary rules and
10 regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
11 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
12 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions
13 of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
14 nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
15 chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
16 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
17 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.

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