

HB 255 -- DIGNITY IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH ACT

SPONSOR: Bosley

This bill establishes the "Missouri Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act". Any hospital, clinic, or other health care facility that provides perinatal care, as defined in the bill, is required to implement an evidence-based implicit bias program for all health care providers involved in the perinatal care of patients within those facilities. The bill specifies what should be included in any implicit bias program.

This bill also requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to track data on severe maternal morbidity, as well as to track data on pregnancy-related deaths, and both should include, but not be limited to, the conditions specified in the bill. The data collected should be published at least once every three years after it has been aggregated by state regions and disaggregated by racial and ethnic identity.

Furthermore, the bill requires that information entered into the electronic death registration system include information indicating whether the decedent was pregnant at the time of death, or within a year prior to the death, if known.

The bill also requires hospitals to provide each patient, upon admission or as soon thereafter as reasonably practical, written information regarding the rights of the patient, as specified in the bill. If a hospital chooses to include this information along with existing notices to the patient regarding patient rights, any newly required information must be provided when the hospital exhausts its existing inventory of written materials and prints new written materials.

This bill is similar to HB 1599 (2024) and HB 2879 (2023).