

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. B. No. 125**

**Senators Kunze, Maharath  
Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Antonio**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 5.266, 3702.36, 3702.37, and 1  
3738.20 of the Revised Code to enact the Save 2  
Our Mothers Act regarding birth equity, 3  
peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and 4  
implicit bias in the health care system and to 5  
designate May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness 6  
Month." 7

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5.266, 3702.36, 3702.37, and 8  
3738.20 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 5.266. The month of May is designated as "Maternal 10  
Mortality Awareness Month." 11

Sec. 3702.36. (A) As used in this section and section 12  
3702.37 of the Revised Code: 13

(1) "Freestanding birthing center" means any facility in 14  
which deliveries routinely occur, regardless of whether the 15  
facility is located on the campus of another health care 16  
facility, and which is not licensed under Chapter 3711. of the 17  
Revised Code as a level one, two, or three maternity unit or a 18

limited maternity unit. 19

(2) "Hospital" means a hospital registered with the 20  
department of health under section 3701.07 of the Revised Code. 21

(3) "Severe maternal morbidity" means unexpected outcomes 22  
of pregnancy, labor, or delivery that result in significant 23  
short-term or long-term consequences to a woman's health. 24

(B) The director of health shall adopt rules establishing 25  
requirements for hospitals and freestanding birthing centers to 26  
conduct annual continuing education for employees and 27  
contractors who routinely care for pregnant and postpartum 28  
women, including employees and contractors of the facility's 29  
emergency department. In establishing the requirements, the 30  
director may consult with the American college of obstetricians 31  
and gynecologists and other professional associations concerned 32  
with the care of pregnant and postpartum women. 33

(C) Among the requirements to be established under 34  
division (B) of this section shall be a requirement that each 35  
hospital and freestanding birthing center provide its employees 36  
and contractors educational modules on each of the following in 37  
accordance with acceptable and prevailing standards of care: 38

(1) Severe maternal hypertension; 39

(2) Obstetric hemorrhage; 40

(3) The two most prevalent obstetric complications, other 41  
than those specified in divisions (C) (1) and (2) of this 42  
section, as identified in the most recent biennial report 43  
prepared under section 3738.08 of the Revised Code by the 44  
pregnancy-associated mortality review (PAMR) board established 45  
under section 3738.01 of the Revised Code. 46

The modules shall be updated and provided not less than 47  
annually. The director shall require that hospitals and 48  
freestanding birthing centers apply to the appropriate 49  
professional licensing boards to have each educational module 50  
approved for continuing education credit. 51

(D) All rules adopted under division (B) of this section 52  
shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised 53  
Code. 54

**Sec. 3702.37.** The director of health shall monitor the 55  
compliance of hospitals and freestanding birthing centers with 56  
the requirements regarding continuing education established in 57  
rules adopted under section 3702.36 of the Revised Code. To that 58  
end, the director may inspect the records of any hospital or 59  
freestanding birthing center and require that each hospital and 60  
freestanding birthing center issue reports on the continuing 61  
education activities it has conducted. 62

**Sec. 3738.20.** (A) The department of health shall 63  
collaborate with the Ohio perinatal quality collaborative or its 64  
successor to develop an initiative to improve birth equity, 65  
reduce peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and address 66  
implicit bias in the health care system. In developing the 67  
initiative, the department and Ohio perinatal quality 68  
collaborative shall consider existing programs, including those 69  
administered or supported by the alliance for innovation on 70  
maternal health and the Ohio equity institute. The department 71  
shall ensure that the initiative includes the development of 72  
best practices for implicit bias training and education in 73  
cultural competency to be used by hospitals and freestanding 74  
birthing centers in interactions between patients and health 75  
care providers. 76

(B) The department of health, in collaboration with the 77  
pregnancy-associated mortality review (PAMR) board established 78  
under section 3738.01 of the Revised Code, shall make available 79  
to all hospitals and freestanding birthing centers best 80  
practices for the timely identification of all pregnant and 81  
postpartum women in the emergency department and for the 82  
appropriate and timely consultation with an obstetrician, 83  
certified nurse-midwife, or physician assistant with obstetric 84  
expertise to provide input on patient management and follow-up. 85  
A hospital or freestanding birthing center may use telemedicine 86  
services for the consultation. 87

(C) The director of health may adopt rules in accordance 88  
with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as necessary to implement 89  
this section. 90

**Section 2.** This act shall be known as the Save Our Mothers 91  
Act. 92