

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. B. No. 140

**Senators Ingram, Reynolds
Cosponsors: Senators Smith, Craig**

To enact section 3702.35 of the Revised Code 1
regarding freestanding birthing centers. 2

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

Section 1. That section 3702.35 of the Revised Code be 3
enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 3702.35. (A) As used in this section: 5

(1) "Commission for the accreditation of birth centers" 6
means the organization known by that name or its successor 7
organization. 8

(2) "Freestanding birthing center" means a facility, or 9
part of a facility, that provides care during pregnancy, 10
delivery, and the immediate postpartum period to a low-risk 11
expectant mother. "Freestanding birthing center" does not 12
include a hospital licensed under Chapter 3722. of the Revised 13
Code. 14

(B) Each freestanding birthing center shall have a written 15
plan for the transfer of a mother or a newborn to a hospital in 16
the event of medical complications, emergency situations, or as 17
the need arises. 18

(C) No freestanding birthing center accredited by the 19
commission for the accreditation of birth centers shall be 20
required to establish a written transfer agreement with a 21
hospital. 22

(D) A freestanding birthing center that is not accredited 23
by the commission for the accreditation of birth centers shall 24
have a written transfer agreement with a local hospital. 25