



2023-2024 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 20: Care for Women, Children, and Families Act - Part IV, Reforms to Reduce Infant and Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Increase Access to Contraceptives

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: S.L. 2023-14

Date: November 17, 2023
Prepared by: Jason Moran-Bates
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Part IV of S.L. 2023-14, as amended by Section 2 of S.L. 2023-79, appropriates funds for long-term birth control, increases the Medicaid rate for obstetrics maternal bundle payments, expands the practice authority of Certified Nurse Midwives, and appropriates funds to expand the Safe Sleep North Carolina Campaign.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 14, 2023. The veto was overridden by the General Assembly on May 16, 2023. The Certified Nurse Midwife provisions in this Part of the act became effective October 1, 2023. The remainder of the Part of the act became effective July 1, 2023.

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, Certified Nurse Midwives must practice under the supervision of a physician and cannot prescribe medications.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 4.1 of Part IV of S.L. 2023-14 appropriates \$3.5 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to award competitive grants to local health departments and nonprofit community health centers to purchase and make available long-acting reversible contraceptives for underserved, uninsured, or medically indigent patients.

Section 4.2 of Part IV of S.L. 2023-14 increases the Medicaid rate for obstetrics maternal bundle payments for pregnancy care to at least 71% of the Medicare rate. \$2.8 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium are appropriated for this purpose, providing a state match to the \$5.5 million in recurring federal funds.

Section 4.3 of S.L. 2023-14, as amended by Section 2 of S.L. 2023-79, expands the scope of practice for certified nurse midwives. An individual who is certified as a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) can write prescriptions if authorized to do so by a joint subcommittee of the Medical Board and Board of Nursing. CNMs who have more than 24 months and 4,000 hours of experience can practice without being supervised by a physician. CNMs who attend births outside of hospital settings must inform patients about the risks of non-hospital births and have a plan to transfer the patient to a hospital if necessary. Healthcare providers treating patients in emergent situations that arose because of the actions of a CNM in a non-hospital setting are immune from liability in most cases.

Section 4.4 of Part IV of S.L. 2023-14, appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to fund expansion of the Safe Sleep North Carolina Campaign

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 14, 2023. The veto was overridden by the General Assembly on May 16, 2023. The Certified Nurse Midwife provisions in this Part of the act became effective October 1, 2023. The remainder of the Part of the act became effective July 1, 2023.

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