

HB 1898 -- PERINATAL CARE

SPONSOR: Bahr

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop standards for all levels of hospital perinatal care including regional perinatal centers by January 1, 2015. The standards must assure that:

- (1) Facilities are equipped and prepared to stabilize infants prior to transport;
- (2) Coordination exists between general maternity care and perinatal centers;
- (3) Unexpected complications during delivery can be properly managed;
- (4) All high-risk pregnancies and childbirths are reviewed at each hospital or maternity center to determine if children are born with a handicapping condition or developmental disability that threatens life or development;
- (5) Procedures are implemented to identify and report to the department all births of children with handicapping conditions or developmental disabilities that threaten life or development;
- (6) Children identified as having a handicapping condition or developmental disability that threatens life or development are promptly evaluated in consultation with designated regional perinatal centers and referred, if appropriate, to the centers or to other medical specialty services as approved by the department and in accordance with the level of perinatal care authorized for each hospital or maternity care center for the proper management and treatment of the condition or disability;
- (7) Hospital or maternity centers conduct postnatal reviews of all perinatal deaths as well as reviews of the births of children born with handicapping conditions or developmental disabilities that threaten life or development utilizing criteria of case selection developed by the hospitals or maternity centers or the appropriate medical staff committees in order to determine the appropriateness of diagnosis and treatment and the adequacy of procedures to prevent the disabilities or the loss of life;
- (8) High-risk mothers are provided information, referral, and counseling services to ensure informed consent to the treatment of children born with handicapping conditions or developmental disabilities;

(9) Parents and families are provided information, referral, and counseling services to assist in obtaining habilitation, rehabilitation, and special education services for children born with handicapping conditions or developmental disabilities so that the children have an opportunity to realize their full potential. These standards must include, the establishment of procedures for notification of the appropriate state and local educational service agencies regarding children who may require evaluation and assessment under the agencies; and

(10) Consultation when indicated is provided for and available. Perinatal centers must provide care for the high-risk expectant mother who may deliver a distressed or disabled infant. The centers must also provide intensive care to the high-risk newborn whose life or physical well-being is in jeopardy.

These standards must include the availability of trained personnel, trained neonatal nursing staff, x-ray and laboratory equipment available on a 24-hour basis, infant monitoring equipment, transportation of mothers and infants, genetic services, surgical and cardiology consultation, and other support services as may be required.

The standards under this section must be based upon best practices as outlined by the most current version of the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care" prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and must be established by rules and regulations of the department.