

HB 887 -- Registration of Midwives

Sponsor: Frederick

This bill changes the laws regarding midwifery and establishes registration requirements for midwives. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Removes the provision which specifies that anyone who engages in the practice of midwifery other than a licensed physician will be guilty of the unlawful practice of medicine and repeals Section 334.260, RSMo, regarding the licensure of midwives;

(2) Establishes the Advisory Committee for Registered Midwives under the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to advise and assist the board with the registration of midwives;

(3) Prohibits a person from holding himself or herself out as a midwife unless the person is registered with the board;

(4) Authorizes the board to issue or renew a certificate of registration to an applicant who presents evidence of specified documentation and certification, evidence of his or her current certification in adult and neonatal CPR, and pays a fee set by the board;

(5) Authorizes the board to issue, refuse to issue, or renew certificates for reasons specified in the bill;

(6) Allows the board to cause a complaint to be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission against a registered midwife;

(7) Requires all fees collected to be deposited into the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts Fund;

(8) Requires every registered midwife to submit an informed consent document to each client specifying the practice of midwifery and his or her training, experience, liability coverage, and emergency medical plan. The document must be signed by the client and kept by the midwife in the client's records;

(9) Specifies that no medical professional or hospital providing emergency care to a woman or infant because of the care received from a midwife will be liable for civil damages for any act or omission resulting from the services provided unless the act or omission was a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct

on the part of the medical professional or hospital;

(10) Prohibits a registered midwife from prescribing drugs; performing surgical procedures, vacuum deliveries, sonograms, medical inductions, cesarean sections, or abortions; using forceps during a delivery; and providing services to high-risk or multiple-birth pregnancies;

(11) Requires a registered midwife to keep a record of each client served; and

(12) Requires every midwife to submit on a biannual basis a client summary report for each client and a notice of home delivery within 30 days of the birth to the board.

Any person violating the provisions of the bill will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.