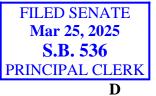
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025



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SENATE BILL DRS15223-MRa-84

Short Title:	Birth Freedom Act.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Chitlik and Murdock (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED		
2	AN ACT TO ENACT THE BIRTH FREEDOM ACT.		
3	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:		
4	SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 58-3-170 reads as rewritten:		
5	"§ 58-3-170. Requirements for maternity coverage.		
6	(a) Every entity providing a health benefit plan that provides maternity coverage in this		
7	State shall provide benefits for the necessary care and treatment related to maternity that are no		
8	less favorable than benefits for physical illness generally.		
9			
10	(c) <u>All health benefit plans providing maternity coverage shall ensure that this coverage</u>		
11	includes all necessary services and care for births occurring, or planned to occur, under the		
12	supervision of a qualified healthcare provider, at home or at a birthing center."		
13	SECTION 1.(b) This section is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to insurance		
14	contracts issued, renewed, or amended on and after that date.		
15	SECTION 2. The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health		
16	Benefits, shall ensure that beneficiaries of the Medicaid program have access to all of the		
17			
18	center and shall provide reimbursement for these services in the same manner as other maternity		
19	coverage. A rate equal to ninety percent (90%) of the average commercial rate shall be paid for		
20	these services. These services shall be added as soon as possible on or after July 1, 2025.		
21	SECTION 3.(a) G.S. 135-48.51 reads as rewritten:		
22	"§ 135-48.51. Coverage and operational mandates related to Chapter 58 of the General		
23	Statutes.		
24	The following provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes apply to the State Health Plan:		
25	(1) <u>G.S. 58-3-170, Requirements for maternity coverage.</u>		
26	(1a) G.S. 58-3-191, Managed care reporting and disclosure requirements.		
27	" ····		
28	SECTION 3.(b) Effective July 1, 2025, there is appropriated from the General Fund		
29	to the Department of State Treasurer the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)		
30	in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to create greater access to		
31	maternity care provided at birthing centers in this State under the North Carolina State Health		
32	Plan for Teachers and State Employees (State Health Plan). Incentives to be considered by the		
33	Board of Trustees of the State Health Plan shall ultimately result in cost-savings to the State		
34	Health Plan and may include subsidies not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500)		
35	for maternity care at a birthing center and reimbursement rates for these services that are no lower		



- 1 than ninety percent (90%) of the average commercial rate paid to hospitals for the same or similar
- 2 maternity care services.
- 3 SECTION 3.(c) Subsection (a) of this section applies as of the start of the next plan
 4 year following the effective date of this act.
- 5 **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes 6 law.