

**HB129 INTRODUCED**



1      HB129  
2      4UQVD33-1  
3      By Representatives Lands, DuBose, Hall, Drummond, Clarke,  
4      Collins, McClammy, Fidler, Hollis  
5      RFD: Health  
6      First Read: 13-Jan-26  
7      PFD: 07-Jan-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 Under existing law, licensed midwives are  
6                 required to order certain newborn screening tests for  
7                 diseases pursuant to the Newborn Screening Program  
8                 under the Alabama Department of Public Health.

9                 This bill would authorize licensed midwives to  
10                administer those screening tests in accordance with the  
11                program.

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14                A BILL  
15                TO BE ENTITLED  
16                AN ACT

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18                Relating to midwifery; to amend Section 34-19-16, Code  
19                of Alabama 1975, to authorize licensed midwives to administer  
20                screening for certain diseases in newborns pursuant to the  
21                Newborn Screening Program.

22                BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23                Section 1. Section 34-19-16, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
24                amended to read as follows:

25                "§34-19-16

26                (a) A licensed midwife may provide midwifery care in  
27                the setting of the client's choice, except a hospital.

28                (b) A licensed midwife shall ensure that the client has

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29 signed a midwife disclosure form provided by the board  
30 indicating receipt of a written statement that includes all of  
31 the following information:

32 (1) A description of the licensed midwife's education,  
33 training, and experience in midwifery.

34 (2) Antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum conditions  
35 requiring medical referral, transfer of care, and transport to  
36 a hospital.

37 (3) A plan for medical referral, transfer of care, and  
38 transport of the client or newborn or both when indicated by  
39 specific antepartum, intrapartum, or postpartum conditions.

40 (4) Instructions for filing a complaint against a  
41 licensed midwife.

42 (5) A statement that the licensed midwife must comply  
43 with the federal Health Insurance Portability and  
44 Accountability Act.

45 (6) The status of a licensed midwife's professional  
46 liability insurance coverage.

47 (7) References to current evidence regarding the safety  
48 of midwifery care in out-of-hospital settings, including a  
49 copy of the most recent statement by the American Congress of  
50 Obstetricians and Gynecologists on home birth.

51 (c) A licensed midwife shall ensure that the client has  
52 signed an informed consent form provided by the board.

53 (d) For screening purposes only, a licensed midwife may  
54 order routine antepartum and postpartum laboratory analyses to  
55 be performed by a licensed laboratory.

56 (e) After a client has secured the services of a



57 licensed midwife, the licensed midwife shall document an  
58 emergency care plan on a form provided by the board.

59 (f) A licensed midwife shall determine the progress of  
60 labor and, when birth is imminent, shall be available until  
61 delivery is accomplished.

62 (g) A licensed midwife shall remain with the client  
63 during the postpartal period until the conditions of the  
64 client and newborn are stabilized.

65 (h) A licensed midwife shall instruct the client  
66 regarding the requirements of the administration of eye  
67 ointment ordered by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
68 pursuant to Section 22-20-2.

69 (i) A licensed midwife shall instruct the client  
70 regarding the requirements of administration of newborn health  
71 screening ordered by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
72 pursuant to Section 22-20-3.

73 (j) A licensed midwife shall file a birth certificate  
74 for each birth in accordance with the requirements of Section  
75 22-9A-7.

76 (k) A licensed midwife shall collect clinical data  
77 under the Midwives Alliance of North America Statistics  
78 Project for each client who initiates care and shall submit a  
79 copy of the clinical data collected for each consenting client  
80 to the board upon request.

81 (l) A licensed midwife shall report to the Alabama  
82 Department of Public Health pursuant to Chapter 11A~~T~~ of Title  
83 22~~T~~ and any other law that requires hospitals or physicians to  
84 report to the Alabama Department of Public Health.



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85 (m) A licensed midwife shall provide all information  
86 required to be provided to new mothers pursuant to Section  
87 22-20-3.1, and all information required to be provided to new  
88 mothers before discharge by hospitals, as defined in Section  
89 22-21-20.

90 (n) A licensed midwife shall order and may administer  
91 those tests provided in Section 22-20-3 and any rule adopted  
92 by the State Board of Health pursuant to that section relating  
93 to the newborn screening program, to all neonates in his or  
94 her care.

95 (o) A licensed midwife may order and administer a  
96 urinalysis or blood glucose test as indicated."

97                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
98       1, 2026.