



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2517

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Lisa Davis

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2310/2310-735 new

Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Department of Public Health shall create a professional development course that addresses racial disparities in maternal health treatment and the impact of racial disparities on non-Hispanic Black and American Indian women. Provides that the course shall have a length of at least one hour. Requires the course to include education on (i) current statistics about pregnancy-related death for all racial and ethnic groups, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (ii) potential risk factors associated with women that are a part of a marginalized racial or ethnic group that has increased maternal mortality rates, and (iii) medical care plans and programs that have been demonstrated to successfully decrease maternal mortality rates and complications before and after pregnancy. Provides that the Department shall require health care professionals to complete the professional development course.

LRB104 11976 BDA 22070 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Purpose. According to the Department of Public  
5 Health, women in this State belonging to traditionally  
6 marginalized racial and ethnic groups are substantially more  
7 vulnerable and susceptible to fatal outcomes during pregnancy  
8 and birth. This risk is especially high in non-Hispanic Black  
9 and American Indian women. In this State, the maternal  
10 mortality rate for Black women is triple that of White women,  
11 and American Indian women report more maternal mental health  
12 conditions than any other racial group. Given the urgency of  
13 addressing the issue of racial disparities in maternal health  
14 among traditionally marginalized groups, the purpose of this  
15 amendatory Act is to create a professional development course  
16 that informs health care professionals of the circumstances  
17 that marginalized groups face.

18 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and  
19 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is  
20 amended by adding Section 2310-735 as follows:

21 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-735 new)

22 Sec. 2310-735. Maternal mortality education.

1       (a) In this Section, "health care professional" means any  
2 person who works in maternal health and who is licensed or  
3 registered by the Department of Financial and Professional  
4 Regulation under any one or more of the following Acts: the  
5 Medical Practice Act of 1987; the Nurse Practice Act; the  
6 Clinical Psychologist Licensing Act; the Pharmacy Practice  
7 Act; the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987; the  
8 Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act; the  
9 Dietitian Nutritionist Practice Act; the Home Medical  
10 Equipment and Services Provider License Act; the Nursing Home  
11 Administrators Licensing and Disciplinary Act; the Respiratory  
12 Care Practice Act; the Professional Counselor and Clinical  
13 Professional Counselor Licensing and Practice Act; the Sex  
14 Offender Evaluation and Treatment Provider Act; the  
15 Perfusionist Practice Act; the Registered Surgical Assistant  
16 and Registered Surgical Technologist Title Protection Act; the  
17 Licensed Certified Professional Midwife Practice Act; or the  
18 Genetic Counselor Licensing Act.

19       (b) The Department shall create and administer a  
20 professional development course that addresses racial  
21 disparities in maternal health treatment and the impact of  
22 racial disparities on non-Hispanic Black and American Indian  
23 women. The course shall have a length of at least one hour. The  
24 course shall include, but shall not be limited to, education  
25 on:

26       (1) current statistics about pregnancy-related death

1 for all racial and ethnic groups, as defined by the  
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

3 (2) potential risk factors associated with women that  
4 are a part of a marginalized racial or ethnic group that  
5 has increased maternal mortality rates that include, but  
6 are not limited to:

7 (A) structural and institutional racism;

8 (B) common stereotypes and misconceptions of  
9 health care professionals related to marginalized  
10 groups of women; and

11 (C) specific pregnancy-related medical conditions  
12 that commonly occur with specific racial and ethnic  
13 groups; and

14 (3) medical care plans and programs that have been  
15 demonstrated to successfully decrease maternal mortality  
16 rates and complications before and after pregnancy. These  
17 medical care plans and programs may include information  
18 about the positive impacts of doulas and midwives who are  
19 of the same racial or ethnic group as the patient.

20 (c) The Department shall require each health care  
21 professional to complete the professional development course.