

SENATE BILL REPORT

2SHB 1773

As of February 19, 2014

Title: An act relating to the practice of midwifery.

Brief Description: Concerning the practice of midwifery.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Rodne, Cody, Green, Ryu, Liias, Farrell and Santos).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/17/14, 91-5.

Committee Activity: Health Care: 2/24/14, 2/25/14.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

Background: A licensed midwife renders medical care for compensation to a woman during prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum stages. In order to be licensed, a midwife must:

- have a high school degree;
- be at least 21 years of age;
- possess a certificate or diploma from a midwifery program;
- obtain a minimum of three years of midwifery training;
- for a student midwife during training, undertake the care of at least 50 women in each of the prenatal, intrapartum, and early postpartum period;
- observe an additional 50 women in the intrapartum period; and
- pass an examination.

Summary of Bill: The practice of midwifery includes rendering medical aid to a woman or to her newborn up to two weeks of age.

The Secretary of the Department of Health must write rules to bridge the gap between requirements of national certification of certified professional midwives and state requirements for licensure for licensed midwives.

Licensed midwives must renew their license according to the following requirements:

- completion of a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every three years;
- proof of participation in a Washington State coordinated quality improvement program; and

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- proof of participation in data submission on perinatal outcomes to a national or state research organization.

The Secretary must write rules regarding the renewal process and the process for verification of the third-party data submission.

Midwives may delegate to a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse tasks that do not exceed the nurse's education.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.