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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1824**

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**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representative Barnard)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1            AN ACT Relating to inspections for accredited birthing centers;  
2 and amending RCW 18.46.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.46.080 and 2000 c 93 s 35 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) The department shall make or cause to be made an inspection  
7 and investigation of all birthing centers, and every inspection may  
8 include an inspection of every part of the premises. The department  
9 may make an examination of all records, methods of administration,  
10 the general and special dietary and the stores and methods of supply.  
11 The department may prescribe by regulation that any licensee or  
12 applicant desiring to make specified types of alteration or addition  
13 to its facilities or to construct new facilities shall before  
14 commencing such alterations, addition, or new construction submit  
15 plans and specifications therefor to the department for preliminary  
16 inspection and approval or recommendations with respect to compliance  
17 with regulations and standards herein authorized. Necessary  
18 conferences and consultations may be provided.

19            (2)(a) A birthing center that is accredited by a birthing center  
20 accrediting body is not subject to a state licensure survey if:

1 (i) The department determines that the applicable survey  
2 standards of the accrediting body are substantially equivalent to  
3 those of this chapter and adopted by the department;

4 (ii) An on-site survey has been conducted for the purposes of  
5 accreditation during the previous 36 months; and

6 (iii) The department receives directly from the accrediting body  
7 or from the applicant copies of the latest survey report and other  
8 relevant reports or findings that indicate compliance with licensure  
9 requirements.

10 (b) The department retains authority to survey those service  
11 areas not addressed by the accrediting body, if any.

12 (c) In reviewing the birthing center accrediting body's survey  
13 standards for substantial equivalency to those set forth in this  
14 chapter or adopted by the department in rule, the department is  
15 directed to provide the most liberal interpretation consistent with  
16 the intent of this chapter. In the event the department determines at  
17 any time that the survey standards are not substantially equivalent  
18 to those required by this chapter or adopted by the department in  
19 rule, the department is directed to notify the affected licensees.  
20 The notification must contain a detailed description of the  
21 deficiencies in the alternative survey process, as well as an  
22 explanation concerning the risk to the consumer. The determination of  
23 substantial equivalency for alternative survey process and lack of  
24 substantial equivalency are agency actions and subject to RCW  
25 34.05.210 through 34.05.395 and 34.05.510 through 34.05.675.

26 (d) The department is authorized to perform a validation survey  
27 on applicants who previously received a survey through the  
28 accreditation process by the accrediting body. The department is  
29 authorized to perform a validation survey on no greater than 10  
30 percent of applicants that are accredited by the accrediting body.

31 (e) This subsection (2) does not affect the department's initial  
32 licensing process or enforcement authority for licensed birthing  
33 centers.

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