

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1234

Chairperson: Senator Brian Hardin

Committee: Health and Human Services

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1234 adopts the Freestanding Birth Center Act to provide an option for birth outside of the hospital setting. The birth centers created by the act would be licensed to provide services for labor, birth, early postpartum and newborn care to patients with low-risk pregnancies consistent with national standards within the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. The birth center's clinical director shall be a certified nurse midwife.

The licensing procedures spelled out in LB 1234 include licensure fees and standards, the application process, details for licensure, renewal requirements, the limitations on scope of services and the change of ownership process or closure policies. Suspension, revocation and refusal to renew authority is given to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The birth center will support and respect the rights of patients. Informed consent, confidentiality, and participation in decisions relating to the management of care is encouraged.

The birth center will maintain health records and create a mechanism for data collection to assess efficacy and outcomes. Accident or health insurance providers for newborn care or maternity benefits may provide coverage for services by licensed providers working in the birth center or the birth center itself.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ben Hansen