

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 2730

By: Pittman

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to maternal and infant mortality;  
8 defining terms; requiring hospitals and birthing  
9 centers to implement an implicit bias training  
10 program; providing requirements of program; requiring  
11 training program for certain health care  
12 professional; directing the State Department of  
13 Health to promulgate rules and to track program  
14 results; providing for codification; and providing an  
15 effective date.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-242.5 of Title 63, unless  
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. As used in this section:

21 1. "Implicit bias" means a bias in judgment or behavior that  
22 results from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit  
23 prejudice and implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level  
24 below conscious awareness and without intentional control; and

2. "Implicit stereotypes" means the unconscious attributions of  
particular qualities to a member of a certain social group,

1 influenced by experience, and based on learned associations between  
2 various qualities and social categories, including race and gender.

3 B. 1. Every hospital that provides inpatient maternity  
4 services and every birthing center licensed pursuant to Sections 1-  
5 701 through 1-706 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes may implement  
6 an evidence-based implicit bias training program for all health  
7 professionals who provide perinatal treatment and care to pregnant  
8 women at the hospital or birthing center.

9 2. The training program may include, but shall not be limited  
10 to:

- 11 a. identifying previous and current unconscious biases  
12 and misinformation when providing perinatal treatment  
13 and care to pregnant women,
- 14 b. identifying personal, interpersonal, institutional,  
15 and cultural barriers to inclusion,
- 16 c. information on the effects of historical and  
17 contemporary exclusion and oppression of minority  
18 communities,
- 19 d. information about cultural identity across racial and  
20 ethnic groups,
- 21 e. information about communicating more effectively  
22 across racial, ethnic and religious identities,
- 23 f. a discussion on power dynamics and organizational  
24 decision-making and their effects on implicit bias,

- 1 g. a discussion on health inequities and racial and  
2 ethnic disparities within the field of perinatal care,  
3 and how implicit bias may contribute to pregnancy-  
4 related deaths and maternal and infant health  
5 outcomes, and  
6 h. corrective measures to decrease implicit bias at the  
7 interpersonal and institutional levels.

8 3. A health care professional who provides perinatal treatment  
9 and care to pregnant women at a hospital that provides inpatient  
10 maternity services or a birthing center licensed pursuant to  
11 Sections 1-701 through 1-706 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes  
12 shall:

- 13 a. complete the training program on implicit bias at such  
14 times and intervals as the hospital or birthing center  
15 shall require,  
16 b. complete a refresher course under the training  
17 program, designed to provide the health care  
18 professional with updated information about racial,  
19 ethnic, and cultural identity, and best practices in  
20 decreasing interpersonal and institutional implicit  
21 bias, every two (2) years or on a more frequent basis,  
22 if deemed necessary by the hospital or birthing  
23 center, and  
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1 c. receive a certification from the hospital or birthing  
2 center upon successful completion of the training  
3 program.

4 C. The State Department of Health shall promulgate rules to  
5 effectuate the purpose of this section.

6 D. The State Department of Health shall track the results of  
7 the training program, infant and maternal mortality rates and  
8 causes, infant and maternal mortality rates by race or ethnicity,  
9 location in Oklahoma, age, and any other relevant factors deemed  
10 necessary by the State Department of Health to help create a strong  
11 evidence-based training program to be used in the future.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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14 58-1-6225 AB 01/08/21  
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