

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1739
Version:	ENGR
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. McEntire
Date:	3/27/2024
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

Engrossed Senate Bill 1739 states that, on November 1st, 2024, the State Department of Health must cease licensing birthing centers, stipulating that no new license will be issued and no current license will be renewed upon expiration. The measure modifies the requirement for health insurers to provide coverage for postpartum home care and requires that such coverage is extended to births made at a birthing center not licensed as a hospital but accredited as a freestanding birth center by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. The measure requires that a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse must provide services at such centers recognized by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as a Certified Nurse-Midwife, a Certified Professional Midwife or Certified Midwife, or a licensed allopathic or osteopathic physician.

Prepared By: Matthew Brenchley

Fiscal Analysis

SB 1739 eliminates the licensing of birthing centers by the State Department of Health (OSDH) unless the birthing center is operated by a hospital. Health benefit plans that provide maternity benefits must continue coverage for one (1) home visit within forty-eight (48) hours of childbirth if the delivery occurs at home or in a freestanding birth center accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. The reduction in licensing revenue is anticipated to have a minimal impact on the Department's budget and will be absorbed within existing resources.

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) must seek federal approval to allow birthing centers not licensed by the state but accredited as freestanding birth centers to receive reimbursement for services provided under the state Medicaid program. Officials from OHCA confirmed the transfer of services will not impact the agency's budget.

Therefore, this measure is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Alexandra Ladner, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.