

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2007 SESSION

CHAPTER 822

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2403.01 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-11.6, relating to the Pregnant Women Support Act.

[H 3183]

Approved March 24, 2007

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2403.01 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-11.6 as follows:

§ 32.1-11.6. Virginia Pregnant Women Support Fund; purpose; guidelines.

A. There is hereby created the Virginia Pregnant Women Support Fund (the Fund) as a special nonreverting fund to be administered by the Board of Health to support women and families who are facing unplanned pregnancy.

B. The Board of Health shall have authority to solicit gifts, donations, bequests and grants on behalf of the Fund from any source and to deposit all moneys received in the Fund. The Council shall submit to the Governor an annual report of all gifts, donations, grants and bequests accepted; the names of the donors; and the respective amounts contributed by each donor.

C. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All moneys received from any source pursuant to subsection B shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of carrying out the activities enumerated below:

- 1. Purchasing or upgrading ultrasound equipment;*
- 2. Creating a separate program for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking screening against pregnant women and new mothers;*
- 3. Conducting a public campaign to increase public awareness;*
- 4. Providing support services for students of institutions of higher education;*
- 5. Providing funds to allow early childhood education programs to work with pregnant or parenting teens to complete high school and provide job training education; or*
- 6. Providing for teenage or first time mothers education on the health needs of their infants through free home visits by registered nurses.*

D. The Board of Health shall establish an application process and related procedures for community health centers, migrant health centers, homeless health centers, and public-housing centers seeking grants from the Fund. A grant may be made only if an application for the grant is submitted to the Board of Health and the application is in such a form, is made in such a manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Board determines to be necessary to carry out its functions.

§ 54.1-2403.01. Routine component of prenatal care.

A. As a routine component of prenatal care, every practitioner licensed pursuant to this subtitle who renders prenatal care, including any holder of a multistate licensure privilege to practice nursing, regardless of the site of such practice, shall advise every pregnant woman who is his patient of the value of testing for Human Immunodeficiency Viruses (HIV) infection and shall request of each such pregnant woman consent to such testing. The confidentiality provisions of § 32.1-36.1, the informed consent stipulations, test result disclosure conditions, and appropriate counseling requirements of § 32.1-37.2 shall apply to any HIV testing conducted pursuant to this section. Practitioners shall counsel all pregnant women with HIV-positive test results about the dangers to the fetus and the advisability of receiving treatment in accordance with the then current Centers for Disease Control recommendations for HIV-positive pregnant women. Any pregnant woman shall have the right to refuse consent to testing for HIV infection and any recommended treatment. Documentation of such refusal shall be maintained in the patient's medical record.

B. As a routine component of prenatal care, every practitioner licensed pursuant to this subtitle who renders prenatal care, including any holder of a multistate licensure privilege to practice nursing, regardless of the site of such practice, upon receipt of a positive test result from a prenatal test for Down syndrome or other prenatally diagnosed conditions performed on a patient, the health care provider involved may provide the patient with information about the Virginia Department of Health genetics program website. He may also provide a referral to support services providers, including information hotlines specific to Down syndrome or other prenatally diagnosed conditions, resource centers or clearinghouses, and other education and support programs. For the purposes of this section,

"prenatally diagnosed condition" means any fetal health condition identified by prenatal genetic testing or prenatal screening procedures.