

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2009 SESSION

CHAPTER 646

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2957.03 and 54.1-2957.9 of the Code of Virginia, relating to regulation of practice of midwifery.

[H 2163]

Approved March 30, 2009

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-2957.03 and 54.1-2957.9 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2957.03. Certified nurse midwives; required disclosures; liability.

A. *A certified nurse midwife who provides health care services to a patient outside of a hospital or birthing center, as defined in subsection E of § 32.1-11.5, shall disclose to that patient, when appropriate, information on health risks associated with births outside of a hospital or birthing center including but not limited to risks associated with vaginal births after a prior cesarean section, breech births, births by women experiencing high-risk pregnancies, and births involving multiple gestation.*

B. The certified nurse midwife who provided health care to a patient shall be liable for the midwife's negligent, grossly negligent, or willful and wanton acts or omissions. Except as otherwise provided by law, any (i) doctor of medicine or osteopathy who did not collaborate or consult with the midwife regarding the patient and who has not previously treated the patient for this pregnancy, (ii) nurse, (iii) prehospital emergency medical personnel, or (iv) hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 or agents thereof, who provides screening and stabilization health care services to a patient as a result of a certified nurse midwife's negligent, grossly negligent, or willful and wanton acts or omissions, shall be immune from liability for acts or omissions constituting ordinary negligence.

§ 54.1-2957.9. Regulation of the practice of midwifery.

The Board shall adopt regulations governing the practice of midwifery, upon consultation with the Advisory Board on Midwifery. The regulations shall (i) address the requirements for licensure to practice midwifery, including the establishment of standards of care, (ii) be consistent with the North American Registry of Midwives' current job description for the profession and the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives' standards of practice, except that prescriptive authority and the possession and administration of controlled substances shall be prohibited, (iii) ensure independent practice, (iv) *require midwives to disclose to their patients, when appropriate, options for consultation and referral to a physician and evidence-based information on health risks associated with birth of a child outside of a hospital or birthing center, as defined in subsection E of § 32.1-11.5, including but not limited to risks associated with vaginal births after a prior cesarean section, breech births, births by women experiencing high-risk pregnancies, and births involving multiple gestation,* (v) provide for an appropriate license fee, and ~~(v)~~ (vi) include requirements for licensure renewal and continuing education. Such regulations shall not (a) require any agreement, written or otherwise, with another health care professional or (b) require the assessment of a woman who is seeking midwifery services by another health care professional.

License renewal shall be contingent upon maintaining a Certified Professional Midwife certification.