
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 142 (H.572). Human services; health care

An act relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Panel

This act makes a variety of amendments to the Maternal Mortality Review Panel. The first section amends the Panel's charge to include consideration of "health disparities and social determinants of health, including race and ethnicity in maternal death reviews." It also enables the Commissioner of Health to make one-year appointments to the Panel if the expertise of a licensed clinical provider specializing in substance use disorder, an expert in pharmaceutical management of mental health, or a social worker is necessary to the Panel's review. It further enables the Panel to consult experts as needed on a case by case basis. The first section makes other amendments, including authorizing entry into reciprocity agreements with other states' panels, specifying Panel review cannot begin until the conclusion of any related criminal prosecution, requiring an annual report to the General Assembly, and authorizing the payment of per diem compensation and reimbursement to certain Panel members.

Sec. 2 of this act specifies that the Panel's existing exemption to the Public Records Act pertains to records both produced and acquired by the Panel. Sec. 3 expands records to which the Panel has access. In a case under review by the Panel, upon written request of the Commissioner of Health or designee, a person who possesses information or records that are necessary and relevant to the review of a maternal mortality must provide the Panel with the information and records.

Effective Date: July 1, 2020