

H.572

An act relating to the Maternal Mortality Review Panel

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 1552, in subsection (a), by inserting the following sentence at the end of the subsection:

The Panel shall consider health disparities and social determinants of health, including race and ethnicity in maternal death reviews.

Second: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 1552, in subsection (g), by inserting after “Health and Welfare” and before the period the phrase , provided that releasing the information complies with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191

Third: By inserting a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1554 is amended to read:

§ 1554. CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) The Panel’s meetings are confidential and shall be exempt from the Open Meeting Law, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2. The Panel’s proceedings, records, and opinions shall be confidential and shall not be subject to inspection or review under 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3 or to records produced or acquired by the Panel are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential. The records of the Panel are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding; provided, however, that nothing

in this subsection shall be construed to limit or restrict the right to discover or use in any civil or criminal proceeding anything that is available from another source and entirely independent of the Panel's proceedings.

(b) Members of the Panel shall not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding the information presented in or opinions formed as a result of a meeting of the Panel; provided, however, that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a member of the Panel from testifying to information obtained independently of the Panel or ~~which~~ that is public information.

And by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct

Fourth: By striking out the newly renumbered Sec. 3, 18 V.S.A. § 1555, in its entirety and inserting a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1555 is amended to read:

§ 1555. INFORMATION RELATED TO MATERNAL MORTALITY

(a)(1) Health care providers; health care facilities; clinics; laboratories; medical records departments; and State offices, agencies, and departments shall report all maternal mortality deaths to the Chair of the Maternal Mortality Review Panel and to the Commissioner of Health or designee.

(2) The Commissioner and the Chair may acquire the information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection from health care facilities, maternal mortality review programs, and other sources in other states to ensure

that the Panel's records of Vermont maternal mortality cases are accurate and complete.

(b)(1) ~~The Commissioner shall have access to individually identifiable information relating to the occurrence of maternal deaths only on a case-by-case basis where public health is at risk. As used in this section, "individually identifiable information" includes vital records; hospital discharge data; prenatal, fetal, pediatric, or infant medical records; hospital or clinic records; laboratory reports; records of fetal deaths or induced terminations of pregnancies; and autopsy reports.~~ In any case under review by the Panel, upon written request of the Commissioner or designee, a person who possesses information or records that are necessary and relevant to the review of a maternal mortality shall, as soon as practicable, provide the Panel with the information and records. All requests for information or records by the Commissioner or designee related to a case under review shall be provided by the person possessing the information or records to the Panel at no cost.

(2) The Commissioner or designee may retain identifiable information regarding facilities where maternal deaths occur and geographic information on each case solely for the purposes of trending and analysis over time. In accordance with the rules adopted pursuant to subdivision 1556(4) of this title, all individually identifiable information on individuals and identifiable

information on facilities shall be removed prior to any case review by the Panel.

(3) The Chair shall not acquire or retain any individually identifiable information.

(4) As used in this subsection, “individually identifiable information” includes vital records; hospital discharge data; prenatal, fetal, pediatric, or infant medical records; hospital or clinic records; laboratory reports; records of fetal deaths or induced terminations of pregnancies; and autopsy reports.

(c) If a root cause analysis of a maternal mortality event has been completed, the findings of such analysis shall be included in the records supplied to the review Panel.