



Help improve Illinois maternity care options!

HB677 SB1754 The Home Birth Safety Act

Bill language authored by the historically recognized Illinois authority on delivering babies, the Illinois Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Standards were drawn from the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Global Standards. Approved by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, IL Chapter.

“The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) endorses the ICM education and training standards and strongly advocates the ICM criteria as the baseline for midwifery licensure in the United States, through legislation and regulation.”

ACOG Press Release, April 2015 - ACOG Endorses the International Confederation of Midwives Standards for Midwifery Education, Training, Licensure and Regulation.

The following provisions in the Home Birth Safety Act create some of the highest standards for professional home birth midwifery in the United States.

1. Strong Educational Requirements

Requires that licensed midwives earn the Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) and be nationally certified. CPMs must graduate from a program accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council. (MEAC). MEAC is approved by the US Department of Education. MEAC programs take, on average, three to five years to complete.

2. Extensive Informed Consent Clause

The most detailed informed consent requirement in Illinois health care licensure statutes. Requires a licensed midwife to provide the patient with a written protocol for transfers and consultations as well as a patient-specific emergency care plan.

3. Detailed Scope of Practice and Rules

Defined in statute. Limited to normal healthy pregnancies. Strictly defines the conditions under which a midwife can attend a home birth. Lists conditions for “risking out” of home birth.

4. Strictly Limited Medications

Very limited health-promoting and life-saving medications necessary for safe home birth practice. Meets national standards for midwifery practice.

5. Required Consultation

Detailed list in the statute of maternal or newborn conditions for which midwives must consult a physician or advance practice nurse. Also lists conditions for which transport to a hospital is required before, during or after the birth.