

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 32

BY SENATOR MCMATH

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Establishes a Perinatal Bereavement Care Initiative within the Louisiana Department of Health. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the heading of Part XII-A of Chapter 5-B of Title 40 of the Louisiana
3 Revised Statutes of 1950 and to enact R.S. 40:1124.3, relative to perinatal care; to
4 provide for the Perinatal Bereavement Care Initiative; to provide for the duties of the
5 Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for funding; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. The heading of Part XII-A of Chapter 5-B of Title 40 of the Louisiana
9 Revised Statutes of 1950 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1124.3 is hereby
10 enacted to read as follows:

11 PART XII-A. PERINATAL ~~PHYSICAL~~ HEALTH POLICY

12 * * *

13 **§1124.3. Perinatal bereavement care**

14 **A. There is hereby established within the Louisiana Department of**
15 **Health, office on women's health and community health, the Perinatal**
16 **Bereavement Care Initiative. The department shall administer the initiative to**
17 **improve access to and the quality of perinatal bereavement care in the state.**

B. The office shall coordinate with the Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality and nonprofit organizations to provide the following resources to hospitals that provide maternity care:

(1) Training for hospital personnel on interacting with parents and family members following an intrauterine fetal demise, neonatal death, or stillbirth.

(2) Perinatal bereavement devices.

(3) Identifying available perinatal bereavement services for parents and family members, including grief counseling and support groups.

C. The office shall prioritize hospitals that lack access to a perinatal bereavement device, treat a high number of high-risk maternal patients, and deliver a high number of babies.

D. The department may seek and receive voluntary monies from any sources, including federal funds, gifts, grants, and donations, which shall be expended for the purposes provided for in this Section.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 32 Original	DIGEST 2026 Regular Session	McMath
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Proposed law establishes a Perinatal Bereavement Care Initiative within the La. Dept. of Health, office on women's health and community health.

Proposed law requires the office to coordinate with the Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality and nonprofit organizations to provide perinatal bereavement resources to hospitals that provide maternity care.

Proposed law requires the office to prioritize hospitals that lack access to a perinatal bereavement device, treat a high number of high-risk maternal patients, and deliver a high number of babies.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to seek and receive federal funds, gifts, grants, and donations for purposes of implementing proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends the heading of Part XII-A of Ch. 5-B of Title 40 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950; adds R.S. 40:1124.3)