

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 611

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

HEALTH/WOMEN'S: Provides relative to pregnancy-related service centers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part VI-H of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to  
3 be comprised of R.S. 40:2180.31 through R.S. 40:2180.38, relative to  
4 pregnancy-related service centers; to require licensure by the Louisiana Department  
5 of Health for pregnancy help centers providing healthcare services; to provide for  
6 definitions, standards and oversight, and enforcement and penalties; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Part VI-H of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
10 1950, comprised of R.S. 40: 2180.31 through R.S. 40:2180.38, is hereby enacted to read as  
11 follows:

12 Part VI-H. LICENSING OF PREGNANCY HELP CENTERS

13 §2180.31. Short title

14 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Pregnancy Help Center  
15 Healthcare Licensing Act".

16 §2180.32. Purpose

17 The purpose of this Part is to authorize the Louisiana Department of Health  
18 to promulgate and publish rules and regulations for the licensing of pregnancy help  
19 centers to increasingly provide services that involve medical screening, diagnostics,  
20 or counseling presented as healthcare.

1        §2180.33. Definitions

2                For the purposes of this Part, the following terms have the following  
3        meanings:

4                (1) "Client" means any individual who receives services from a pregnancy  
5        help center.

6                (2) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

7                (3) "Healthcare services" means services that constitute or involve medical  
8        care, including but not limited to any of the following:

9                (a) Pregnancy testing.

10              (b) Ultrasound imaging.

11              (c) Medical screening or diagnostic services.

12              (d) Pregnancy counseling or consultation presented as medical advice.

13              (4) "Licensed healthcare facility" means a facility licensed by the department  
14        pursuant to Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

15              (5) "Pregnancy help center" means any organization, center, or facility,  
16        whether for-profit or nonprofit, that has as its primary purpose the provision of  
17        pregnancy-related services, counseling, testing, or information.

18        §2180.34. Licensure requirement

19              A. Any pregnancy help center that provides healthcare services shall be  
20        licensed by the department as a healthcare facility.

21              B. No pregnancy help center shall provide healthcare services unless and  
22        until it has obtained such licensure.

23              C. Pregnancy help centers that provide only non-medical services including  
24        peer counseling, material assistance, education, or religious counseling and do not  
25        provide healthcare services shall not be subject to licensure under this part.

26        §2180.35. Licensing Standards and Oversight

27              A. The Department shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance  
28        with the Administrative Procedure Act establishing minimum standards for licensure  
29        which shall include but not be limited to:

- 1           (1) Staff qualifications and scope-of-practice requirements.
- 2           (2) Clinical supervision by appropriately licensed medical professionals.
- 3           (3) Infection control and equipment safety standards.
- 4           (4) Client confidentiality and compliance with applicable privacy laws.
- 5           (5) Record keeping and reporting requirements.
- 6           (6) Complaint and inspection procedures.

7           B. Standards adopted pursuant to this Part shall be comparable to those  
8 applied to similarly situated outpatient healthcare facilities and shall not impose  
9 requirements unrelated to patient safety or quality of care.

10 §2180.36. Inspections and compliance

11           A. Licensed pregnancy help centers shall be subject to all of the following:

- 12           (1) Initial licensure inspections.
- 13           (2) Periodic inspections, including unannounced inspections, as determined  
14 by the department.

15           B. The department may investigate complaints alleging violations of this Part  
16 of applicable regulations.

17 §2180.37. Enforcement and penalties

18           A. The department may deny, suspend, or revoke licensure for violations of  
19 this Part or rules adopted pursuant thereto.

20           B. Any pregnancy help center that knowingly provides healthcare services  
21 without required licensure shall be subject to any of the following:

- 22           (1) Civil penalties not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation per day.
- 23           (2) Injunctive relief to prevent continued unlicensed operation.

24           C. The attorney general may bring an action to enforce the provisions of this  
25 Part.

26 §2180.38. Construction

27           Nothing in this Part shall be construed to:

- 28           (1) Require any pregnancy help center to provide or refer for abortion  
29 services.



Proposed law provides for a transition period for pregnancy help centers to apply for licensure.

(Adds R.S. 40:2180.31-2180.38)