

1 SB284
2 218256-1
3 By Senators Coleman-Madison, Figures and Sanders-Fortier
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
5 First Read: 01-MAR-22

SYNOPSIS: Under federal law, a pregnant woman who is eligible for medical assistance under Medicaid must be provided medical assistance for a period of 60 days after giving birth.

This bill would extend the period during which a pregnant woman who is eligible to receive medical assistance under Medicaid may continue to receive Medicaid assistance from 60 days to one year after giving birth.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Medicaid; to extend the postpartum coverage period for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid assistance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the following:

1 (1) The question of how to provide comprehensive,
2 quality health care to all Alabamians regardless of income,
3 health status, age, or gender has been one the Alabama
4 Legislature has asked itself time and time again.

5 (2) New mothers in Alabama are suffering because of
6 their lack of access to postpartum health care.

7 (3) According to the Alabama Maternal Mortality
8 Review Committee 2020 Report, the pregnancy-associated
9 mortality ratio (PAMR) and pregnancy-related mortality ratio
10 (PRMR) for 2016 was 38.9 and 22.0 deaths per 100,000 live
11 births, respectively. Nearly 70 percent of
12 pregnancy-associated and pregnancy-related deaths were
13 determined to be preventable. Mental health and substance use
14 disorders were identified as key contributors in almost half
15 of pregnancy-associated and pregnancy-related deaths.
16 Cardiovascular-related conditions were found as the leading
17 underlying cause in pregnancy-related deaths.

18 (4) Alabama women die from pregnancy and childbirth
19 complications at more than double the rate of women
20 nationally, according to new numbers from the National Center
21 for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention.

23 (5) As of 2018, Alabama ranks sixth highest in the
24 nation in maternal death rates with Alabama's most current
25 recorded rate at 36.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
26 compared to the national rate of 20.6.

1 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Medicaid Agency shall
2 continue to provide medical assistance to a woman who is
3 eligible for medical assistance for pregnant women for a
4 period of not less than 12 months following the date the woman
5 delivers or experiences an involuntary miscarriage.

6 (b) Upon passage and approval by the Governor, the
7 Alabama Medicaid Agency shall submit a state plan amendment to
8 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services extending
9 postpartum coverage to 12 months.

10 Section 3. This act shall become effective
11 immediately following its passage and approval by the
12 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.