

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4   HOUSE BILL 2730

   By: Pittman of the House

5   and

6   **Montgomery** of the Senate

7  
8  
9   AS INTRODUCED

10                     An Act relating to maternal and infant mortality;  
11                     defining terms; requiring hospitals and birthing  
12                     centers to implement an implicit bias training  
13                     program; providing requirements of program; requiring  
14                     training program for certain health care  
15                     professional; directing the State Department of  
16                     Health to promulgate rules and to track program  
17                     results; providing for codification; and providing an  
18                     effective date.

19   BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

20                     SECTION 1.         NEW LAW         A new section of law to be codified  
21                     in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-242.5 of Title 63, unless  
22                     there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23                     A.   As used in this section:

24                     1.   "Implicit bias" means a bias in judgment or behavior that  
                      results from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit

1 prejudice and implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level  
2 below conscious awareness and without intentional control; and

3 2. "Implicit stereotypes" means the unconscious attributions of  
4 particular qualities to a member of a certain social group,  
5 influenced by experience, and based on learned associations between  
6 various qualities and social categories, including race and gender.

7 B. 1. Every hospital that provides inpatient maternity  
8 services and every birthing center licensed pursuant to Sections 1-  
9 701 through 1-706 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes may implement  
10 an evidence-based implicit bias training program for all health  
11 professionals who provide perinatal treatment and care to pregnant  
12 women at the hospital or birthing center.

13 2. The training program may include, but shall not be limited  
14 to:

- 15 a. identifying previous and current unconscious biases  
16 and misinformation when providing perinatal treatment  
17 and care to pregnant women,
- 18 b. identifying personal, interpersonal, institutional,  
19 and cultural barriers to inclusion,
- 20 c. information on the effects of historical and  
21 contemporary exclusion and oppression of minority  
22 communities,
- 23 d. information about cultural identity across racial and  
24 ethnic groups,

- e. information about communicating more effectively across racial, ethnic and religious identities,
- f. a discussion on power dynamics and organizational decision-making and their effects on implicit bias,
- g. a discussion on health inequities and racial and ethnic disparities within the field of perinatal care, and how implicit bias may contribute to pregnancy-related deaths and maternal and infant health outcomes, and
- h. corrective measures to decrease implicit bias at the interpersonal and institutional levels.

3. A health care professional who provides perinatal treatment and care to pregnant women at a hospital that provides inpatient maternity services or a birthing center licensed pursuant to Sections 1-701 through 1-706 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall:

- a. complete the training program on implicit bias at such times and intervals as the hospital or birthing center shall require,
- b. complete a refresher course under the training program, designed to provide the health care professional with updated information about racial, ethnic, and cultural identity, and best practices in decreasing interpersonal and institutional implicit

1 bias, every two (2) years or on a more frequent basis,  
2 if deemed necessary by the hospital or birthing  
3 center, and

4 c. receive a certification from the hospital or birthing  
5 center upon successful completion of the training  
6 program.

7 C. The State Department of Health shall promulgate rules to  
8 effectuate the purpose of this section.

9 D. The State Department of Health shall track the results of  
10 the training program, infant and maternal mortality rates and  
11 causes, infant and maternal mortality rates by race or ethnicity,  
12 location in Oklahoma, age, and any other relevant factors deemed  
13 necessary by the State Department of Health to help create a strong  
14 evidence-based training program to be used in the future.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.  
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17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY  
18 SERVICES, dated 02/23/2021 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.  
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