

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

391S0125

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1061

Introduced by: Representatives Hunt, Brunner, Dennert, Feickert, Haggar, Jensen, Liss, Miller, Munsterman, Nelson (Stace), Olson (Betty), Sly, Steele, and Verchio and Senators Rhoden, Begalka, Frerichs, Fryslie, Lederman, and Sutton

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for the practice and regulation of registered  
2 midwives.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. Terms used in this Act mean:

5 (1) "Department," the Department of Health;

6 (2) "Registered midwife," any person who has been registered to practice midwifery  
7 pursuant to this Act.

8 Section 2. The department shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to establish  
9 practice guidelines for registered midwives that are substantially similar to the "Practice  
10 Guidelines for Out of Hospital Birth by Certified Nurse Midwives in South Dakota" established  
11 by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners for certified  
12 nurse midwives. However, the practice guidelines for registered midwives may not include  
13 prescriptive authority but shall include a list of medications that a registered midwife may  
14 administer after completing a pharmacology course accredited by the Midwifery Education



1 Accreditation Council or approved by the department that covers any medication on the list and  
2 the use of the medication in the out-of-hospital setting. The practice guidelines shall also include  
3 the provision of care and services that is limited to the following:

- 4 (1) Monitoring the physical, psychological, and social well-being of the mother  
5 throughout the childbearing cycle;
- 6 (2) Providing the mother with individualized education, counseling and prenatal care,  
7 continuous hands-on assistance during labor and delivery, and postpartum support;
- 8 (3) Monitoring and supporting the baby during the pregnancy, labor, delivery and  
9 postpartum period; and
- 10 (4) Identifying and referring women and newborns who require medical attention.

11 Section 3. No person may practice as a registered midwife unless that person is registered  
12 with the department pursuant to this Act. No person may use the title, registered midwife, to  
13 describe or imply that he or she is a registered midwife, or represent himself or herself as a  
14 registered midwife unless the person is granted registration pursuant to this Act. A violation of  
15 this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor. The following persons are exempt from the registration  
16 requirements of this Act:

- 17 (1) Any certified nurse midwife, registered nurse, or licensed nurse practitioner  
18 authorized to practice in South Dakota;
- 19 (2) Any student midwife engaged in an internship, preceptorship, or other clinical  
20 training program, who is under the direction and supervision of a preceptor  
21 recognized by the North American Registry of Midwives; and
- 22 (3) Any person exempt pursuant to § 36-2-20.

23 Section 4. Any person seeking registration under this Act shall complete the application  
24 prescribed by the department and submit the application along with the registration fee to the

1 department. The registration shall be renewed annually by payment of the renewal fee and proof  
2 that the midwife has maintained his or her certification with the North American Registry of  
3 Midwives. A registration not renewed by December thirty-first of each year lapses. Any fee  
4 collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the general fund.

5 Section 5. The department shall register any midwife who has submitted a completed  
6 application form, paid the registration fee, and met the following requirements:

- 7 (1) Is at least twenty-one years of age at the time of application;
- 8 (2) Has earned a high school diploma or the equivalent;
- 9 (3) Has earned and maintains the Certified Professional Midwife credential issued by the  
10 North American Registry of Midwives accredited by the National Commission for  
11 Certifying Agencies;
- 12 (4) Has earned and maintains certification in neonatal resuscitation obtained through  
13 completion of American Heart Association approved cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
14 courses or American Academy of Pediatrics approved neonatal resuscitation courses;  
15 and
- 16 (5) Has successfully completed a course accredited by the Midwifery Education  
17 Accreditation Council or approved by the department in suturing, intravenous fluid  
18 resuscitation, and pharmacology that covers any medication on the list established by  
19 the department; and
- 20 (6) Has provided the department with fingerprints and other information necessary for  
21 a criminal background investigation and has been shown not to have committed any  
22 felonies.

23 Section 6. The department may adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, in the following areas:

- 24 (1) Content of applications;

- 1 (2) Fees for initial registration and renewal not to exceed one hundred dollars; and
- 2 (3) Renewal of registration.

3 Section 7. The registration of a midwife may be revoked or suspended upon violation of the  
4 practice guidelines established by the department. Any proceeding concerning the revocation  
5 or suspension of a registration shall conform to the contested case procedure set forth in chapter  
6 1-26.

7 Section 8. A registered midwife shall report to the department any termination, revocation,  
8 or suspension of the registered midwife's certification within five days of being notified of such  
9 action.

10 Section 9. A registered midwife shall file birth certificates with the department in  
11 accordance with § 34-25-8. Filing a birth certificate known by the registered midwife to be  
12 fraudulent is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

13 Section 10. In addition to the plan of care agreement detailed in the practice guidelines a  
14 registered midwife shall, at an initial consultation with a client, provide a copy of an informed  
15 consent document to be signed by the registered midwife and the client, which document shall  
16 disclose to the client, in writing, all of the following:

- 17 (1) The registered midwife's experience, qualifications, and training;
- 18 (2) Whether or not the registered midwife has malpractice liability insurance;
- 19 (3) A plan for consultation, referral, and transport for medical emergencies specific to  
20 each client, including identification of the closest hospital with labor and delivery  
21 services, the closest hospital with an emergency department, and a physician who  
22 will be called for consultation.

23 Section 11. Nothing in this Act permits a registered midwife to provide services in a hospital  
24 licensed pursuant to chapter 34-12 unless the hospital has specifically granted such privileges.

1 Section 12. No registered midwife may use forceps or vacuum extraction or perform  
2 cesarean sections or abortions.

3 Section 13. No licensed health care provider or hospital or agent thereof is liable for an  
4 injury resulting from an act or omission by a registered midwife.

5 Section 14. That chapter 36-9 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
6 follows:

7 Nothing in this chapter may be construed as prohibiting the care and services described in  
8 section 2 of this Act, provided in the performance of his or her duties, by a registered midwife  
9 registered pursuant to this Act, so long as the registered midwife does not claim to be a  
10 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

11 Section 15. That chapter 36-9A be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read  
12 as follows:

13 Nothing in this chapter may be construed as prohibiting the care and services described in  
14 section 2 of this Act, provided in the performance of his or her duties, by a registered midwife  
15 registered pursuant to this Act, so long as the registered midwife does not claim to be a nurse  
16 practitioner or certified nurse midwife.

17 Section 16. That chapter 36-4 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
18 follows:

19 Nothing in this chapter may be construed as prohibiting the care and services described in  
20 section 2 of this Act, provided in the performance of his or her duties, by a registered midwife  
21 registered pursuant to this Act, so long as the registered midwife does not claim to be a  
22 physician or surgeon.