

HOUSE BILL 2962

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;  
Title 56 and Title 71, relative to perinatal insurance  
benefits.

WHEREAS, educating fathers about pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period empowers fathers to understand the physical and emotional changes their partners experience; and

WHEREAS, when fathers are well informed, they can actively participate in prenatal care, make informed decisions alongside their partners, and provide emotional and practical support; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly seeks to provide educational courses for fathers to improve pregnancy and familial outcomes; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A contract or policy of an insurer that provides pregnancy or maternity benefits, whether under an individual or group health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis, an individual or group service contract issued by a health maintenance organization, a self-insured group arrangement to the extent not preempted by federal law, or a managed healthcare delivery entity of any type or description, shall provide, at a minimum, covered benefits of prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum educational courses available, at no cost, for:

(1) A woman who is pregnant or has given birth to a child within the previous year;

(2) The biological father of the child described in subdivision (a)(1); and

(3) One (1) other person designated by the woman described in subdivision (a)(1).

(b) An insurer or entity required to provide benefits under subsection (a) shall make information about such educational courses available on the insurer's or entity's website in a manner that is easily viewable and accessible, and that indicates the courses are free of cost to the individuals identified in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A contract or policy of a health maintenance organization, behavioral health organization, or managed health insurance issuer that participates in the TennCare program that provides pregnancy or maternity benefits and that is issued, delivered, or amended on or after the effective date of this act shall provide, at a minimum, covered benefits of prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum educational courses, available, at no cost, for:

(1) A woman who is pregnant or has given birth to a child within the previous year;

(2) The biological father of the child described in subdivision (a)(1); and

(3) One (1) other person designated by the woman described in subdivision (a)(1).

(b) Any entity required to provide benefits under subsection (a), including TennCare, shall make information about such educational courses available on the entity's website in a manner that is easily viewable and accessible, and that indicates the courses are free of cost to the individuals identified in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3).

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to contracts or policies of insurance issued, delivered, or amended on or after the effective date of this act.