

1 HOUSE BILL 56  
2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY  
4 Pamelya Herndon  
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7  
8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
9

10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH CARE  
12 AUTHORITY TO ENSURE THAT MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES  
13 PROVIDED AT BIRTH CENTERS IS THE SAME AS REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
14 SERVICES PROVIDED AT HOSPITALS.  
15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

17 SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Assistance Act is  
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] EQUITABLE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES  
20 PROVIDED AT BIRTH CENTERS.--

21 A. For the purposes of this section:

22 (1) "birth center" means a freestanding birth  
23 center licensed by the state for the primary purpose of  
24 performing low-risk deliveries that is not a hospital, attached  
25 to a hospital or in a hospital and where births are planned to

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1 occur away from the pregnant person's residence following a  
2 low-risk pregnancy;

3 (2) "medicaid" means the medical assistance  
4 program established pursuant to Title 19 of the federal Social  
5 Security Act and regulations issued pursuant to that act; and

6 (3) "medicaid recipient" means a person whom  
7 the department has determined to be eligible to receive  
8 medicaid-related services.

9 B. The secretary shall adopt rules to ensure that  
10 services provided to a medicaid recipient at a birth center are  
11 reimbursed at the same rate as equivalent services provided at  
12 a hospital."