

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 222

By: Murdock

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to hospitals; creating the Maternity Care Pilot Program; directing the State Department of Health to select grant awardee for specified purpose; listing qualification criteria; directing development of application process and scoring criteria; limiting use of grant funds; authorizing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3241.21 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Maternity Care Pilot Program, which shall be administered by the State Department of Health. Through the pilot program, the Department shall select one hospital to receive a one-time grant of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) to support the addition of labor and delivery services at the hospital.

B. The hospital selected by the Department shall:

1. Be licensed by the Department;

1 2. Be designated as a critical access hospital by the Centers
2 for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);

3 3. Be organized as a charitable hospital that is exempt from
4 taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
5 1986, as amended;

6 4. Be owned by a municipality, county, or municipal or county
7 public trust;

8 5. Have been profitable for the two (2) consecutive years
9 immediately prior to application for the pilot program;

10 6. Not currently offer labor and delivery services;

11 7. Have space available to house a labor and delivery unit; and

12 8. Have at least one Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) on staff.

13 C. The Department shall develop an application process and
14 scoring criteria for evaluating applicants based on the
15 qualifications specified in subsection B of this section. The
16 Department shall review applicants and shall select the highest-
17 scoring hospital for the pilot program grant award.

18 D. The hospital awarded the pilot program grant under this
19 section may only use grant funds for:

20 1. Staffing costs for an obstetrics team including salary and
21 benefits;

22 2. Acquisition of essential equipment and supplies including,
23 but not limited to, medical instruments; and

1 3. Educational classes related to maternal and infant health
2 including, but not limited to, childbirth education, breastfeeding
3 education, newborn care, and postpartum care.

4 Grant funds shall not be used for construction or renovation
5 costs.

6 E. The State Commissioner of Health may promulgate rules as
7 necessary to implement this section.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

9 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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