

HOUSE BILL 1947

By Dixie

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41,
relative to pregnant incarcerated people.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-21-204(c)(2)(C), is amended by adding the following as new subdivisions:

() "Labor" means the period of time before a birth during which contractions are of sufficient frequency, intensity, and duration to bring about effacement and progressive dilation of the cervix;

() "Support person" means a person of the prisoner's or detainee's choosing who emotionally supports the pregnant prisoner or detainee during prenatal care and postpartum appointments, labor, and delivery;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-21-204(c)(2), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(D)

(i) A correctional institution shall ensure that all prisoners or detainees known to be pregnant, or who have given birth in the six (6) weeks preceding July 1, 2022, have access to a support person. The correctional institution shall grant a support person appropriate facility access, allow a support person to attend prenatal care and postpartum appointments in-person, and permit a support person to provide in-person support during labor and delivery.

(ii) Services provided under this section are in addition to, and do not supplant, healthcare services routinely provided to the prisoners or detainees.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.