

SENATE BILL 2303

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,  
relative to maternal mortality.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 3, Part 5, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Department" means the department of health;

(2) "End of pregnancy"

(A) Means:

(i) A live birth;

(ii) A stillbirth; or

(iii) A fetal death; and

(B) Includes:

(i) Miscarriage; and

(ii) Abortion;

(3) "Maternal mortality" means the death of a woman while pregnant or  
within forty-two (42) days after the end of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration  
and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the  
pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes; and

(4) "Medical examiner"

(A) Means the individual appointed pursuant to title 38, chapter 7,  
part 1; and

(B) Includes the:

- (i) Deputy medical examiner; and
- (ii) County coroner.

(b)

(1) If a woman dies in a hospital after delivery from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes, then the administrator of the hospital shall:

(A) Report the death to the department pursuant to this chapter;

and

(B) Provide a place on the death certificate where the medical examiner can indicate that the death of the woman was related to maternal mortality.

(2) If a woman dies within forty-two (42) days of the end of pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes, then the person authorized to make a determination and pronouncement of death pursuant to this part, shall:

(A) Report the death to the department pursuant to this chapter;

and

(B) Provide a place on the death certificate where the person authorized to make a determination and pronouncement of death pursuant to this part can indicate that the death of the woman was related to maternal mortality.

(c)

(1) The department shall maintain data on maternal mortality, including the number of deaths reported by county, race, and any additional information the department deems necessary.

(2) The data required in subdivision (c)(1) shall be included on the department's web site.

(d) To comply with the requirements of subdivisions (b)(1)(B) and (2)(B), the department may elect to use the death certificates as created by the centers for disease control and prevention.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to deaths occurring on or after such date.