

Proposed amendment to HB 1464

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-MATERNAL CARE SERVICES STUDY- ONE-TIME FUNDING

During the 2025-26 interim, legislative management shall consider a study of prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care programs and services in North Dakota including resources, strengths and barriers to service. The study must include what medical and non-medical prenatal and postnatal care services are available, what communities they are available in, their service areas, and utilization rates of currently existing services. The study will identify where delivery services are available for health care facility-based and home births, and how many obstetricians & family practitioners that routinely deliver babies by geographic service area. Review of prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services covered by public assistance, private insurance policies pregnancy resource centers including funding, program evaluations and outcomes.

The study shall include review of previous studies related to these issues, key informant interviews, focus groups, or consultation with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the ND Maternal Morbidity Review Panel, Infant Mortality Review Panel, Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota, doulas and midwives currently practicing in North Dakota, home visiting programs, the ND American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology and the North Dakota Medical Association.

Outcomes of the study will include a maternal care resource map, a maternal care asset map, an inventory of gaps in services and evidence-based or innovative pilot project solutions for resolving them, approaches for increasing utilization in pre- and post-natal care services and programs and any resources needed for improving access and utilization, recommendations for increasing the number of OB-GYNs practicing in North Dakota, recommendations for certification, training, and reimbursement for doula and midwife services, evidence based change recommendations to public assistance and private insurance policies for improved maternal and infant health outcomes, and pregnancy resource centers funding , program evaluations, audits and outcomes. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.

There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the Department of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of contracting for consulting services with a public health program in the North Dakota Higher Education System for the study for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided is considered a one-time funding item.