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SENATE BILL NO. 1279

Offered January 8, 2025

Prefiled January 8, 2025

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-134.03, relating to hospitals, freestanding emergency departments, and birthing centers; standardized protocols for obstetric emergencies.*

Patrons—Jordan and Mulchi

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-134.03 as follows:

§ 32.1-134.03. *Hospitals, freestanding emergency departments, and birthing centers; standardized protocols for obstetric emergencies.*

All hospitals with an emergency department for labor and delivery, freestanding emergency departments, and birthing centers shall implement standardized protocols for identifying and responding to obstetric emergencies, including obstetric hemorrhage, preeclampsia, eclampsia, and other life-threatening conditions.

The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative shall work collaboratively with these hospitals, departments, and centers to provide training related to obstetrical services, recognizing urgent maternal warning signs, and establishing protocols for transfer of any pregnant or recently delivered women who present for care.

All hospitals with an emergency department for labor and delivery, freestanding emergency departments, and birthing centers shall participate in and submit data to the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Patient Safety Bundle and any other maternal or newborn quality improvement initiative advanced by the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative. Only data that has no protected health information or identifiers shall be submitted.

INTRODUCED

SB1279