

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 506

Introduced by Albrecht, 17; Blood, 3; Brasch, 16; Lowe, 37.

Read first time January 18, 2017

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to health and human services; to adopt the
- 2 Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 Compassion and Care for Medically Challenging Pregnancies Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Compassion and Care for Medically
4 Challenging Pregnancies Act:

5 (1) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

6 (2) Lethal fetal anomaly means a fetal condition diagnosed before
7 birth that will, with reasonable certainty, result in the death of the
8 unborn child within three months after birth;

9 (3) Perinatal hospice means comprehensive support to the pregnant
10 woman and her family that includes support from the time of diagnosis,
11 through the time of birth and the death of the infant, and through the
12 postpartum period. Supportive care may include, but is not limited to,
13 counseling and medical care by maternal-fetal medical specialists,
14 obstetricians, neonatologists, anesthesia specialists, clergy, social
15 workers, and specialty nurses focused on alleviating fear and ensuring
16 that the woman and her family experience the life and death of their
17 child in a comfortable and supportive environment; and

18 (4) Physician means any person licensed to practice medicine and
19 surgery in this state and includes osteopathic physicians.

20 Sec. 3. A physician who diagnoses an unborn child as having a
21 lethal fetal anomaly shall:

22 (1) Inform the woman, orally and in person, that perinatal hospice
23 services are available and offer or refer for this care; and

24 (2) Deliver to the parents in writing the information support sheet
25 provided by the department under section 4 of this act.

26 Sec. 4. (1) The department shall create and organize geographically
27 a list of perinatal hospice programs available in Nebraska and
28 nationally. The department shall post such information on its web site
29 and shall include an information support sheet in English and Spanish on
30 the web site that can be printed and delivered by physicians to parents
31 as prescribed in section 3 of this act. The web site and information

1 support sheet shall be completed and available within ninety days after
2 the effective date of this act. The web site and information support
3 sheet shall include:

4 (a) A statement indicating that perinatal hospice and palliative
5 care is an innovative and compassionate model of support for parents who
6 find out during pregnancy that their baby has a life-limiting condition
7 and who choose to continue their pregnancy;

8 (b) A general description of the health care services available from
9 perinatal hospice programs; and

10 (c) Pertinent contact information that includes any twenty-four-hour
11 perinatal hospice services available.

12 (2) A perinatal hospice program may request that the department
13 include the program's informational material and contact information on
14 the web site. The department may add the information to the web site upon
15 request.