

2025 Maternal Health Legislative Update

**Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures
Task Force**
March 19, 2025
Chief Deputy Secretary Leah Mills



General Assembly Overview

- **Short Session**
 - **Convened on January 8, 2025**
 - **Adjourned Sine Die on February 22, 2025**
- **Upcoming Reconvened / "Veto" Session**
 - **6th Wednesday after adjournment: April 2, 2025**

The Commonwealth's Commitment to Maternal Health

Nearly \$500 million is currently spent annually to support maternal health services in the Commonwealth.

- Medicaid pays for one out of every three births in Virginia. In 2024, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) spent more than \$300M on medical services for pregnant women including prenatal care and labor and delivery.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) spends \$170M on programs providing all-around support to women before, during, and after childbirth as well as continued infant care.
- The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) spent \$9M in FY 2024 through Project Link to reduce barriers to accessing services needed by pregnant women impacted by substance use disorders or mental health disorders. DBHDS was appropriated \$4M in FY 2025 to expand the Virginia Mental Health Access Program, improving access to mental and emotional health services to pregnant and postpartum moms.

Governor Youngkin's Maternal Health Proposals

BUDGET

Proposed an additional \$4M for:

- Increase payments for Psychiatric and OBGYN graduate medical residencies*
- Community health workers and doulas at local health districts - \$1M GF
- Expansion of Perinatal health hub pilot programs - \$2.5 M GF*
- Maternal health warning signs media campaign - \$5M GF

LEGISLATION

- Maternal health; protocols and resources for hospitals and outpatient providers

*Included in Conference Report

Governor Youngkin's Maternal Health Proposals

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Governor Youngkin has issued Executive Directive Eleven to direct the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to:

- enhance the Maternal and Child Health Data Dashboard to include actionable data on pregnancy-associated and pregnancy-associated mortality and causes, and
- establish a centralized maternal health website to provide families with essential resources in one accessible location.

Maternal Health Legislation - DMAS

- **HB1614 (McClure) & SB1418 (Aird)**- Postpartum doula care; state plan for Medical Assistance Services
- **HB2539 (Mundon King)**- Codifies existing pregnant women's dental benefit, report on dental service utilization and birth outcomes.
- **HB1929 (LeVere Bolling) & SB 1393 (Williams Graves)** - Direct DMAS to contract with a developer to create a pregnancy mobile application for Medicaid members
- **HB1976 (Laufer)**- DMAS amend regulations/guidance to further clarify that Medicaid covers remote patient monitoring services for members with maternal diabetes and maternal hypertension

Maternal Health Legislation - VDH

- **HB2109 (Herring)**- Task Force on Maternal Health Data and Quality Measures
- **HB2446 (Mundon King)**- Perinatal and Postpartum Depression Public Awareness Campaign
- **HB1904 (Willett)** - Certified nurse midwives, licensed certified midwives, coverage for nursery services
- **SB1352 (Srinivasan) & HB1635 (Cole)**- Updates practice agreements for midwives and directs VDH to amend regulations to add independent practice midwives to organized medical staff.

Maternal Health – Health Insurance Related

- **HB2083 (Shin)**- Establishes a special enrollment period for pregnancy in the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange.
- **HB1923 (Ward)**- Health insurance; reimbursement for services rendered by certain practitioners, etc.

Maternal Health Budget Amendments

- **VDH**

- \$2.5M to support pilot program for mobile clinics within maternal health deserts in Virginia and data collection
- \$553,200 for a perinatal and postpartum public awareness campaign and online resource hub
- \$500,000 for a contract with the Virginia Health Care Foundation to support community grants to expand access to maternal mental health services

- **DMAS**

- \$1.3M to support midwifery reimbursement parity
- \$159,500 to procure a vendor to develop a pregnancy mobile application for Medicaid members

Additional Maternal Health Budget Amendments

- Language only
 - Directs DMAS to utilize the Cover Virginia call center to connect pregnant members with coverage.