

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	Weidner
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Tyler Larson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/15, 3/22, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines licensure requirements for direct entry midwifery (DEM). Requires State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery (SBDEM) adopt rules. Authorizes SBDEM investigate complaints and take disciplinary action including suspension or revocation of license and assessment of civil penalties. Removes “tocolytics” from list of drugs DEM may prescribe. Deletes references to Direct Entry Midwifery Account. Defines “direct entry midwifery” as participating in certain specified activities for compensation. Requires licensure by January 1, 2015. Allows licensing exemption for individual who does not use legend drugs or devices, does not advertise and discloses lack of licensure and other specified information to each client. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Training and qualifications of direct-entry midwives (DEMs)
- Personal stories of DEM-assisted birth
- Mortality data on DEM-assisted birth
- Licensing exemptions
- Interim workgroup recommendations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes “tocolytics” from list of drugs DEM may prescribe. Deletes references to Direct Entry Midwifery Account. Defines “direct entry midwifery” as participating in certain specified activities for compensation. Requires licensure by January 1, 2015. Allows licensing exemption for individuals who do not use legend drugs or devices, does not advertise and discloses lack of licensure and other specified information to each client.

BACKGROUND: A licensed direct entry midwife (LDEM) supervises the conduct and labor of childbirth, advises the parent as to the progress of childbirth and renders prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care. The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) oversees regulation of direct entry midwifery. Currently, licensure for DEMs is voluntary, and unlicensed midwives may practice in Oregon.

House Bill 2997-A requires licensure to practice midwifery and creates an exemption for traditional midwives who do not administer legend drugs, do not advertise as a midwife, and disclose lack of licensure to each client. The bill also grants the State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery (SBDEM) authority to conduct investigations and take disciplinary action against licensees.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.