

**CHAPTER 121****( HB 212 )**

AN ACT relating to child and maternal fatalities in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 211.684 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For the purposes of KRS Chapter 211:
  - (a) "Child fatality" means the death of a person under the age of eighteen (18) years;
  - (b) "Local child and maternal fatality response team" and "local team" means a community team composed of representatives of agencies, offices, and institutions that investigate child and maternal deaths, including but not limited to, coroners, social service workers, medical professionals, law enforcement officials, and Commonwealth's and county attorneys; and
  - (c) "Maternal fatality" means the death of a woman within one (1) year of giving birth.
- (2) The Department for Public Health may establish a state child and maternal fatality review team. The state team may include representatives of public health, social services, law enforcement, prosecution, coroners, health-care providers, and other agencies or professions deemed appropriate by the commissioner of the department.
- (3) If a state team is created, the duties of the state team may include the following:
  - (a) Develop and distribute a model protocol for local child and maternal fatality response teams for the investigation of child and maternal fatalities;
  - (b) Facilitate the development of local child and maternal fatality response teams which may include, but is not limited to, providing joint training opportunities and, upon request, providing technical assistance;
  - (c) Review and approve local protocols prepared and submitted by local teams;
  - (d) Receive data and information on child and maternal fatalities and analyze the information to identify trends, patterns, and risk factors;
  - (e) Evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies adopted; and
  - (f) Recommend changes in state programs, legislation, administrative regulations, policies, budgets, and treatment and service standards which may facilitate strategies for prevention and reduce the number of child and maternal fatalities.
- (4) The department shall prepare an annual report to be submitted no later than November 1 of each year to the Governor, the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee established in KRS 6.943, *the Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services*, the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, and to be made available to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The report shall include a statistical analysis, *that include the demographics of race, income, and geography*, of the incidence and causes of child and maternal fatalities in the Commonwealth during the past fiscal year and recommendations for action. The report shall not include any information which would identify specific child and maternal fatality cases.

**Signed by Governor March 25, 2021.**