

SUBJECT: Requiring a webpage for pregnancy-related resources and information

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Klick, Jetton, Oliverson, Price, Smith, Tinderholt
5 nays — Campos, Collier, A. Johnson, J. Jones, V. Jones

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 20) — 20 - 9

WITNESSES: None (*considered in formal meeting on May 18*)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that locating certain pregnancy-related resources and information on one central website could make this information more accessible.

DIGEST: SB 2381 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), with assistance from the Department of Information Resources (DIR), to develop and maintain on the texas.gov website a publicly accessible, mobile-friendly webpage of pregnancy-related resources and information, including any available resources for:

- certain prenatal and postpartum services;
- mentorship opportunities, including pregnancy assistance and case management;
- certain health care and well-being services;
- financial assistance, employment opportunities, educational opportunities, and certain social services;
- legal and professional support;
- recovery and mental health services and counseling;
- services for abortion support survivors and their families; and
- services for caring for children, including for adoption, kinship care, foster care, and short-term child care.

The webpage also would have to include information about:

- alternatives to abortion, the Alternatives to Abortion program, and abortion risks;
- child development beginning at conception;
- family planning and pregnancy wellness;
- the Healthy Texas Women program;
- safe haven laws;
- any pregnancy-related services provided by a county in the state; and
- any other resources or information considered helpful to pregnant women.

Through a series of questions, the webpage would have to provide the person with information tailored to the person's answers including information regarding risks related to abortion at all stages of gestation. The webpage also would have to allow users to submit feedback on whether the webpage was user-friendly and helpful in providing tailored information and would be required to include a tool to search for resources by zip code and county.

With assistance from DIR, HHSC would be authorized to develop a mobile application that provided resources and information described by the bill and satisfied the same conditions required for the webpage.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, SB 2381 would have a negative impact of about \$3.8 million on general revenue related funds for fiscal 2024-25.