

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-079

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly

A Bill

JMB/JMB
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative Pilkington

Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILD'S READINESS AND
DEVELOPMENT IN LABOR EDUCATION (CRADLE) ACT; TO
PROHIBIT CERTAIN ELECTIVE INDUCTIONS; TO REQUIRE THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CREATE CERTAIN MATERIALS ON
ELECTIVE INDUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE CREATE THE CHILD'S
READINESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN LABOR
EDUCATION (CRADLE) ACT; TO PROHIBIT
CERTAIN ELECTIVE INDUCTIONS; AND TO
REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
CREATE CERTAIN MATERIALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 9, Subchapter 6, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-9-607. Child's Readiness and Development in Labor Education
(CRADLE) Act – Prohibition on certain elective induction – Definition.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Child's
Readiness and Development in Labor Education (CRADLE) Act".

(b) As used in this section, "elective induction" means a medical
procedure of artificially initiating labor contractions before the labor

contractions would occur naturally.

(c) A healthcare provider shall not schedule or perform an elective induction on a person before forty-one (41) weeks gestation unless:

(1) The healthcare provider informs the person, orally and in person, of:

(A) The most probable gestational age of the unborn child at the time the elective induction is to be performed, based on the best estimate; and

(B) The earliest possible gestational age of the unborn child at the time the elective induction is to be performed;

(2) The person is given a copy of printed informational materials described in subsection (d) of this section and permitted time to review the printed informational materials; and

(3)(A) The person signs a waiver form certifying that the person has:

(i) Been informed as required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section;

(ii) Been provided the printed informational materials under subdivision (c)(2) of this section; and

(iii) Consented to the elective induction and attested that the consent is voluntary and free from coercion.

(B) The signed waiver form under subdivision (c)(3) of this section shall be included in the medical records of the person.

(d)(1) The Department of Health shall develop a standardized waiver form, printable informational materials, and a dedicated website, which may be part of an existing website, that contains the same information as on the printable informational materials.

(2) The printed informational materials and the informational materials on the website shall contain evidence-based information on elective inductions that include, at a minimum, the following topics:

(A) Gestational age variability, including the margin of error on estimated gestational age;

(B) Due date variability, including the following information:

(i) Due dates are estimates of an approximate delivery date;

- 1 (ii) Only five percent (5%) of babies are born on
2 the exact due date; and
3 (iii) The median gestational age for natural labor
4 exceeds the traditional forty (40) weeks gestation;
5 (C) The brain development and growth of a baby;
6 (D) The hormonal readiness of the body, including that
7 natural labor releases hormones that aid the baby's breathing and brain
8 protection;
9 (E) Additional fetal and neonatal risks of elective
10 induction;
11 (F) Maternal risks and outcomes of elective inductions;
12 and
13 (G) Alternatives to elective induction, including
14 expectant management.
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17 Referred by Representative Pilkington

18 Prepared by: JMB/JMB
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