

H.R. 5979: Stillbirth Awareness and Research Act

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1: The title of the Act is the Stillbirth Awareness and Research Act of 2008

Section 2: Describes the findings of Congress that not all states issue Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth when a stillbirth occurs, but instead some issue only a Certificate of Death. Expresses the sense of Congress that more states should enact legislation allowing the issuance of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth.

Section 3: Amends Part B of Title II of the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Stillbirth Registry.

- a) Establishes the National Stillbirth Registry under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- b) The purposes of the registry are to provide a national repository for maintaining stillbirth data in a consistent manner and to make such data available for research into the causes and prevention of stillbirth
- c) Outlines the type of information to be collected with respect to each stillbirth, including the health of the stillbirth mother, and requires the use of the U.S. Standard Report of Fetal Death
- d) Calls upon the Secretary of Health and Human services – in collaboration with representatives of health care organizations, state and local governments, and other interested parties – to determine a standard definition of stillbirth and a standard protocol for collecting stillbirth data

Section 4: Expresses the sense of Congress that the Director of the National Institutes of Health should increase the allocation of funds and other resources for stillbirth research.

Section 5: Calls upon the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national public awareness campaign including the dissemination of information on measures for mothers to maintain a healthy pregnancy and assess fetal health, the dissemination of information on good prenatal care practices, and the promotion of fetal movement awareness beginning at approximately 28 weeks gestation.

