

SENATE BILL 883

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;
Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to long-
acting reversible contraceptives.

WHEREAS, half of all pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended; and

WHEREAS, Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) are extremely effective at preventing pregnancy, are extremely safe, and can provide protection for up to twelve years; and;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about seven percent of women aged fifteen to forty-four currently use LARCs; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, where there has been a program to make LARCs more widely accessible, the state reported a forty-eight percent decline in birthrates among teens and a forty-eight percent decline in teen abortions; and

WHEREAS, high upfront costs, a lack of adequate training for healthcare professionals, administrative barriers, and insufficient information and education have made LARCs more difficult to access than other forms of birth control; and

WHEREAS, this law is enacted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of women and families by making Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives more accessible; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Long-Acting Birth Control Information Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Family planning centers" means health clinics that receive funding under the Title X program overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Pub. L. 91-572, as well as other health clinics that the commissioner of health finds are qualified and willing to perform comprehensive family planning services; and

(2) "Long-acting reversible contraceptives" or "LARCs" means highly effective methods of contraception that last for several years and are easy to use. LARCs include, but are not limited to, intrauterine devices and birth control implants.

(b)

(1) There shall be a program administered by the department of health to improve access to long-acting reversible contraceptives for women.

(2) The program shall include:

(A) Training for family planning centers regarding LARC methods, non-coercive counseling strategies, and managing side effects;

(B) Training for all public health facilities to ensure that they are qualified and able to insert and remove LARCs;

(C) Assistance to family planning centers regarding administrative or technical issues such as coding, billing, pharmacy rules, and clinic management related to the provision of LARC methods;

(D) General financial support to expand the capacity of family planning centers to provide LARCs, and to keep LARCs in stock and available for same-day access by patients;

(E) Education and outreach to the public about the availability, effectiveness, and safety of LARCs;

(F) A study of making as many contraceptive methods as possible available both over-the-counter and directly through pharmacies, as California and Oregon have done; and

(G) Other services the commissioner of health deems necessary to improve access to LARCs.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of health is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.