1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to maternal health care services; 3 creating s. 383.52, F.S.; defining terms; requiring 4 the Department of Health to develop and implement the 5 Prevention of Maternal Mortality Grant Program by a 6 specified date; providing eligibility criteria; 7 requiring the department to conduct certain outreach 8 and technical assistance to eligible entities; 9 requiring the department to give special consideration 10 to certain eligible entities; requiring the department 11 to provide certain technical assistance to grant 12 recipients; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified 13 14 date; requiring the department to adopt rules; creating s. 383.53, F.S.; requiring the department to 15 award grants to certain training programs; providing 16 17 for an application; providing reporting requirements for grant recipients and the department; requiring the 18 19 department, in consultation with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability 20 21 (OPPAGA), to conduct a certain study and submit a 22 report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified 23 date; requiring the department to adopt rules; creating s. 383.54, F.S.; defining terms; requiring 24 25 the department to award grants to certain eligible

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26 entities by a specified date; requiring that grant 27 funds be used for specified activities; providing 28 limitations on the award of such grants; providing 29 requirements for such grants and grant applications; 30 authorizing the department to coordinate with other 31 state agencies to ensure that grant recipients have 32 access to reliable broadband technology; requiring the 33 department to provide certain technical assistance to eligible entities and grant recipients; requiring the 34 35 department, in coordination with certain stakeholders, 36 to develop a strategic plan to research and evaluate 37 certain models; providing reporting requirements for grant recipients and the department; requiring the 38 39 department to adopt rules; creating s. 383.55, F.S.; defining the terms "department" and "eligible entity"; 40 41 requiring the department to develop and implement the 42 Investments in Digital Tools to Promote Equity in 43 Maternal Health Outcomes Program by a specified date; 44 providing eligibility criteria; providing for an application; providing limitations on the award of 45 such grants; requiring the department to provide 46 47 certain technical assistance to eligible entities; 48 providing reporting requirements for grant recipients 49 and the department; requiring the department, in 50 consultation with OPPAGA, to conduct a certain study

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and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by 51 52 a specified date; requiring the department to adopt 53 rules; providing an effective date. 54 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 55 56 Section 1. Section 383.52, Florida Statutes, is created to 57 58 read: 59 383.52 Prevention of Maternal Mortality Grant Program.-60 DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term: (1) "Culturally congruent" means in agreement with the 61 (a) 62 preferred cultural values, beliefs, worldview, and practices of the health care consumer and other stakeholders. 63 64 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health. 65 "Postpartum" means the 1-year period beginning on the (C) 66 last day of a woman's pregnancy. 67 (2) PROGRAM.-By July 1, 2022, the department shall develop 68 and implement the Prevention of Maternal Mortality Grant Program 69 to award grants to eligible entities to establish or expand 70 programs to prevent maternal mortality and severe maternal 71 morbidity among black women. 72 (3) ELIGIBILITY.-To be eligible to seek a grant under this section, an entity must be a community-based organization 73 74 offering programs and resources aligned with evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for black 75

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76	women.
77	(4) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
78	(a) Beginning July 1, 2021, the department shall:
79	1. Conduct outreach to encourage eligible entities to
80	apply for grants under this section; and
81	2. Provide technical assistance to eligible entities on
82	best practices for applying for grants under this section.
83	(b) In conducting outreach, the department shall give
84	special consideration to eligible entities that:
85	1. Are based in, and provide support for, communities with
86	high rates of adverse maternal health outcomes and significant
87	racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes;
88	2. Are led by black women; and
89	3. Offer programs and resources that are aligned with
90	evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes
91	for black women.
92	(5) AWARDSIn awarding grants under this section, the
93	department shall give special consideration to eligible entities
94	that meet all of the following criteria:
95	(a) Meet the criteria specified in paragraph (4)(b).
96	(b) Offer programs and resources designed in consultation
97	with and intended for black women.
98	(c) Offer programs and resources in the communities in
99	which they are located which include any of the following
100	activities:

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101	1. Promotion of maternal mental health and maternal
102	substance use disorder treatments that are aligned with
103	evidence-based practices for improving maternal mental health
104	outcomes for black women.
105	2. Addressing social determinants of health for women in
106	the prenatal and postpartum periods, including, but not limited
107	to, any of the following:
108	a. Inadequate housing.
109	b. Transportation barriers.
110	c. Poor nutrition.
111	d. Lack of access to healthy foods.
112	e. Need for lactation support.
113	f. Need for lead abatement and other efforts to improve
114	air and water quality.
115	g. Lack of access to child care.
116	h. Need for car seat installation.
117	i. Need for wellness and stress management programs.
118	j. Need for coordination across safety net and social
119	support services and programs.
120	3. Promotion of evidence-based health literacy and
121	pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting education for women in the
122	prenatal and postpartum periods.
123	4. Providing support from doulas and other perinatal
124	health workers to women from pregnancy through the postpartum
125	period.
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126 5. Providing culturally congruent training to perinatal 127 health workers such as doulas, community health workers, peer 128 supporters, certified lactation consultants, nutritionists and dietitians, social workers, home visitors, and navigators. 129 130 6. Conducting or supporting research on issues affecting 131 black maternal health. 132 7. Development of other programs and resources that 133 address community-specific needs for women in the prenatal and 134 postpartum periods and are aligned with evidence-based practices 135 for improving maternal health outcomes for black women. 136 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.-The department shall provide to (6) 137 grant recipients under this section technical assistance 138 regarding all of the following: 139 (a) Capacity building to establish or expand programs to 140 prevent adverse maternal health outcomes among black women. 141 (b) Best practices in data collection, measurement, 142 evaluation, and reporting. 143 (c) Planning for sustaining programs to prevent maternal 144 mortality and severe maternal morbidity among black women when 145 the grant expires. 146 REPORT.-By July 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the (7) 147 department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President 148 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives 149 which includes all of the following: 150 Assessment of the effectiveness of outreach efforts (a)

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151	during the application process in diversifying the pool of grant
152	recipients.
153	(b) Recommendations for future outreach efforts to
154	diversify the pool of grant recipients for department grant
155	programs and funding opportunities.
156	(c) Assessment of the effectiveness of programs funded by
157	grants awarded under this section in improving maternal health
158	outcomes for black women.
159	(d) Recommendations for future department grant programs
160	and funding opportunities that deliver funding to community-
161	based organizations to improve maternal health outcomes for
162	black women through programs and resources that are aligned with
163	evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes
164	for black women.
165	(8) RULESThe department shall adopt rules to implement
166	this section.
167	Section 2. Section 383.53, Florida Statutes, is created to
168	read:
169	383.53 Training programs for employees in maternity care
170	settings
171	(1) GRANTSThe Department of Health shall award grants to
172	training programs that reduce and prevent bias, racism, and
173	discrimination in maternity care settings. In awarding grants
174	under this section, the department shall give special
175	consideration to programs that would:

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176 Apply to all birthing professionals and any employees (a) who interact with pregnant and postpartum women, as the term 177 178 "postpartum" is defined in s. 383.52(1), in the provider 179 setting, including front desk employees, technicians, 180 schedulers, health care professionals, hospital or health system administrators, and security staff; 181 182 (b) Emphasize periodic, as opposed to one-time, trainings 183 for all birthing professionals and employees described in 184 paragraph (a); 185 (c) Address implicit bias and explicit bias; Be delivered in continuing education settings for 186 (d) 187 providers maintaining their licenses, with a preference for 188 training programs that provide continuing education units and 189 continuing medical education; 190 (e) Include trauma-informed care best practices and an 191 emphasis on shared decisionmaking between providers and 192 patients; 193 (f) Include a service-learning component that sends 194 providers to work in underserved communities to better 195 understand patients' life experiences; 196 (g) Be delivered in undergraduate degree programs, such as 197 biology and premedicine, which generally lead to enrollment in 198 or are prerequisite programs for medical schools; 199 (h) Be delivered in settings where providers of the 200 federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,

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201	Infants, and Children would receive the training;
202	(i) Integrate bias training in obstetric emergency
203	simulation trainings;
204	(j) Offer training to all maternity care providers on the
205	value of racially, ethnically, and professionally diverse
206	maternity care teams to provide culturally congruent care as
207	defined in s. 383.52(1), including doulas, community health
208	workers, peer supporters, certified lactation consultants,
209	nutritionists and dietitians, social workers, home visitors, and
210	navigators; or
211	(k) Be based on one or more programs designed by a
212	historically black college or university.
213	(2) APPLICATIONTo seek a grant under this section, an
214	entity shall submit an application at such time, in such manner,
215	and containing such information as the department may require.
216	(3) REPORTINGEach recipient of a grant under this
217	section shall annually submit to the department a report on the
218	status of activities conducted under the grant, including, as
219	applicable, a description of the impact of training provided
220	through the grant on patient outcomes and patient experiences
221	for minority women and their families.
222	(4) BEST PRACTICESBased on the annual reports submitted
223	pursuant to subsection (3), the department:
224	(a) Shall produce an annual report on the findings
225	resulting from programs funded through this section;
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226	(b) Shall disseminate such report to all recipients of
227	grants under this section and to the public; and
228	(c) May include in such report findings on best practices
229	for improving patient outcomes and patient experiences for
230	minority women and their families in maternity care settings.
231	(5) STUDY
232	(a) The department, in consultation with the Office of
233	Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, shall
234	conduct a study on the design and implementation of programs to
235	reduce and prevent bias, racism, and discrimination in maternity
236	care settings.
237	(b) The study may include:
238	1. The development of a scorecard for programs designed to
239	reduce and prevent bias, racism, and discrimination in maternity
240	care settings to assess the effectiveness of such programs in
241	improving patient outcomes and patient experiences for minority
242	women and their families.
243	2. Determination of the types of training to reduce and
244	prevent bias, racism, and discrimination in maternity care
245	settings which are demonstrated to improve patient outcomes or
246	patient experiences for minority women and their families.
247	(c) By December 1, 2022, the department, in coordination
248	with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
249	Accountability, shall submit a report to the Governor, the
250	President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
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251 Representatives which includes findings and recommendations 252 based on the study required by this subsection. 253 (6) RULES.-The department shall adopt rules to implement 254 this section. 255 Section 3. Section 383.54, Florida Statutes, is created to 256 read: 257 383.54 Expanding capacity for positive maternal health 258 outcomes.-259 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term: 260 (a) "Department" means the Department of Health. 261 (b) "Eligible entity" means an entity that provides, or 262 supports the provision of, maternal health care services or 263 other evidence-based services for pregnant and postpartum women: 1. 264 In health professional shortage areas; 265 2. In areas with high rates of adverse maternal health 266 outcomes and significant racial and ethnic disparities in 267 maternal health outcomes; or 268 3. Medically underserved populations. 269 270 The term includes entities leading, or capable of leading, a technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity-building 271 272 model or engaging in technology-enabled collaborative training 273 of participants in such model. "Health professional shortage area" means a geographic 274 (C) 275 area designated as such by the Health Resources and Services

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276	Administration of the United States Department of Health and
277	Human Services.
278	(d) "Indigenous population" means any Indian tribe, band,
279	nation, tribal organization, urban Indian organization, or other
280	organized group or community of Indians recognized as eligible
281	for services provided to Indians by the United States Secretary
282	of the Interior because of their status as Indians. The term
283	includes any Alaskan native village as defined in 43 U.S.C. s.
284	1602(c), the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as that
285	definition existed on the effective date of this act.
286	(e) "Maternal mortality" means a death occurring during
287	pregnancy or the postpartum period which is caused by pregnancy
288	or childbirth complications.
289	(f) "Medically underserved population" means the
290	population of an urban or rural area designated by the United
291	States Secretary of Health and Human Services as an area with a
292	shortage of personal health care services or a population group
293	designated by the United States Secretary of Health and Human
294	Services as having a shortage of such services.
295	(g) "Postpartum" has the same meaning as provided in s.
296	383.52(1).
297	(h) "Severe maternal morbidity" means an unexpected
298	outcome caused by a woman's labor and delivery that results in
299	significant short-term or long-term consequences to the woman's
300	health.

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301	(i) "Technology-enabled collaborative learning and
302	capacity building model" means a distance health care education
303	model that connects health care professionals, and particularly
304	specialists, with other health care professionals through
305	simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the purpose of
306	facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices,
307	and evaluating outcomes in the context of maternal health care.
308	(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHEDBy July 1, 2022, the department
309	shall award grants to eligible entities to evaluate, develop,
310	and, as appropriate:
311	(a) Expand the use of technology-enabled collaborative
312	learning and capacity building models; and
313	(b) Improve maternal health outcomes in health
314	professional shortage areas; in areas with high rates of
315	maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and significant
316	racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes; and
317	for medically underserved populations, including, but not
318	limited to, indigenous populations.
319	(3) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—
320	(a) Grants awarded under this section must be used for any
321	of the following:
322	1. The development and acquisition of instructional
323	programming and the training of maternal health care providers
324	and other health care professionals that provide or assist in
325	the provision of health care services through models such as:
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326	a. Training on adopting and effectively implementing
327	Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health safety and quality
328	improvement bundles;
329	b. Training on implicit and explicit bias, racism, and
330	discrimination for maternity care providers;
331	c. Training on best practices in screening for and, as
332	needed, evaluating and treating maternal mental health
333	conditions and substance use disorders;
334	d. Training on how to screen for social determinants of
335	health risks in the prenatal and postpartum periods, such as
336	inadequate housing, lack of access to nutrition, environmental
337	risks, and transportation barriers; or
338	e. Training on the use of remote patient monitoring tools
339	for pregnancy-related complications.
340	2. Information collection and evaluation activities that:
341	a. Study the impact of models described in subparagraph 1.
342	on all of the following:
343	(I) Access to and quality of care.
344	(II) Patient outcomes.
345	(III) Subjective measures of patient experiences.
346	(IV) Cost-effectiveness.
347	b. Identify best practices for the expansion and use of
348	such models.
349	3. Information collection and evaluation activities that
350	study the impact of models described in subparagraph 1. on
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351 patient outcomes and maternal health care providers and that 352 identify best practices for the expansion and use of such 353 models. 354 4. Any other activity consistent with achieving the 355 objectives of grants awarded under this section, as determined 356 by the department. 357 (b) In addition to any of the uses described under 358 paragraph (a), grants awarded under this section may be used 359 for: 360 1. Equipment to support the use and expansion of 361 technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity-building 362 models, including hardware and software that enables distance 363 learning, maternal health care provider support, and the secure 364 exchange of electronic health information; and 365 2. Support for maternal health care providers and other 366 health care professionals that provide or assist in the 367 provision of maternity care services through such models. 368 LIMITATIONS.-The department may not award more than (4) 369 one grant under this section to an eligible entity. Each grant 370 under this section must be made for a period not to exceed 5 years. The department shall determine the maximum amount of each 371 372 grant awarded under this section. (5) GRANT REQUIREMENTS. - The department shall require 373 374 entities awarded a grant under this section to collect 375 information on the effect of the use of technology-enabled

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376	collaborative learning and capacity-building models, such as the				
377	effect of the use of such models on maternal health outcomes,				
378	access to maternal health care services, quality of maternal				
379	health care, and maternal health care provider retention in				
380	areas and populations described in subsection (1). The				
381	department may award a grant or contract to assist in the				
382	coordination of such models, including to assess outcomes				
383	associated with the use of such models in grants awarded under				
384	this section, including for the purposes described in				
385	subparagraph (3)(a)2.				
386	(6) APPLICATION				
387	(a) An eligible entity that seeks to receive a grant under				
388	this section shall submit to the department an application at				
389	such time, in such manner, and containing such information as				
390	the department may require.				
391	(b) The application must include plans to assess the				
392	effect of technology-enabled collaborative learning and				
393	capacity-building models on indicators, including access to and				
394	quality of care, patient outcomes, subjective measures of				
395	patient experiences, and cost-effectiveness. Such indicators may				
396	focus on:				
397	1. Health professional shortage areas;				
398	2. Areas with high rates of maternal mortality and severe				
399	maternal morbidity and significant racial and ethnic disparities				
400	in maternal health outcomes; and				
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401 3. Medically underserved populations or American Indians 402 and Alaska Natives, including Indian tribes, tribal 403 organizations, and urban Indian organizations. ACCESS TO BROADBAND.-In administering grants under 404 (7) 405 this section, the department may coordinate with other state 406 agencies to ensure that funding opportunities are available to 407 support access to reliable, high-speed Internet for grantees. 408 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. - The department shall provide, (8) 409 directly or by contract, technical assistance to eligible 410 entities, including recipients of grants under this section, 411 with the development, use, and post-grant sustainability of 412 technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity-building 413 models in order to expand access to maternal health care 414 services provided by such entities in health professional 415 shortage areas and areas with high rates of maternal mortality 416 and severe maternal morbidity and significant racial and ethnic 417 disparities in maternal health outcomes; and for medically underserved populations, including, but not limited to, 418 419 indigenous populations. 420 (9) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.-The department, in 421 consultation with stakeholders with appropriate expertise in the models described in subsection (8), shall develop a strategic 422 423 plan to research and evaluate the evidence for such models. The 424 department shall use such plan to implement this section. 425 REPORTING.-(10)

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426	(a) An eligible entity that receives a grant under this				
427	section shall submit to the department a report at such time, in				
428	such manner, and containing such information as the department				
429	may require.				
430	(b) By July 1, 2023, the department shall submit to the				
431	Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the				
432	House of Representatives, and post on its Internet website, a				
433	report that includes, at a minimum:				
434	1. A description of any new and continuing grants awarded				
435	under this section and the specific purposes and amounts of such				
436	grants;				
437	2. An overview of:				
438	a. Evaluations conducted under subsection (3);				
439	b. Technical assistance provided under subsection (8); and				
440	c. Activities conducted by entities awarded grants under				
441	this section; and				
442	3. A description of any significant findings related to				
443	patient outcomes or maternal health care providers and best				
444	practices for eligible entities that are expanding, using, or				
445	evaluating technology-enabled collaborative learning and				
446	capacity-building models.				
447	(11) RULESThe department shall adopt rules to implement				
448	this section.				
449	Section 4. Section 383.55, Florida Statutes, is created to				
450	read:				

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451	383.55 Grants to promote equity in maternal health					
452	outcomes by increasing access to digital tools					
453	(1) DEFINITIONSAs used in this section, the term:					
454	(a) "Department" means the Department of Health.					
455	(b) "Eligible entity" has the same meaning as provided in					
456	s. 383.54(1). The term includes domestic faith-based and					
457	community-based organizations.					
458	(2) PROGRAMBy July 1, 2022, the department shall develop					
459	and implement the Investments in Digital Tools to Promote Equity					
460	in Maternal Health Outcomes Program under which the department					
461	shall award grants to eligible entities to reduce racial and					
462	ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes by increasing					
463	access to digital tools related to maternal health care.					
464	(3) APPLICATIONSTo be eligible to receive a grant under					
465	this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the department					
466	an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such					
467	information as the department may require.					
468	(4) LIMITATIONS.—					
469	(a) The department may not award more than one grant under					
470	this section to an eligible entity. Each grant under this					
471	section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years. The					
472	department shall determine the maximum amount of each grant					
473	awarded under this section.					
474	(b) In awarding grants under this section, the department					
475	shall prioritize the selection of an eligible entity that:					

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476 1. Operates in an area with high rates of adverse maternal 477 health outcomes and significant racial and ethnic disparities in 478 maternal health outcomes; and 479 2. Promotes technology that addresses racial and ethnic 480 disparities in maternal health outcomes. 481 (5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.-The department shall provide 482 technical assistance to an eligible entity on the development, 483 use, evaluation, and post-grant sustainability of digital tools 484 for purposes of promoting equity in maternal health outcomes. 485 (6) REPORTING.-486 An eligible entity that receives a grant under this (a) 487 section shall submit to the department a report at such time, in 488 such manner, and containing such information as the department 489 may require. 490 (b) By July 1, 2023, the department shall submit to the 491 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the 492 House of Representatives a report that includes all of the 493 following: 494 1. Evaluation of the effectiveness of grants awarded under 495 this section in improving maternal health outcomes for minority 496 women. 497 2. Recommendations for future grant programs that promote 498 the use of technology to improve maternal health outcomes for 499 minority women. 500 3. Recommendations that address:

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501	a. Privacy and security safeguards that should be				
502	implemented in the use of technology in maternal health care.				
503	b. Reimbursement rates for maternal telehealth services.				
504	c. The use of digital tools to analyze large data sets for				
505	the purpose of identifying potential pregnancy-related				
506	complications as early as possible.				
507	d. Barriers that prevent maternal health care providers				
508	from providing telehealth services across state lines and				
509	recommendations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid				
510	Services for addressing such barriers in the state Medicaid				
511	program.				
512	e. The use of consumer digital tools, such as mobile				
513	telephone applications, patient portals, and wearable				
514	technologies to improve maternal health outcomes.				
515	f. Barriers that prevent consumers from accessing				
516	telehealth services or other digital technologies to improve				
517	maternal health outcomes, including a lack of access to				
518	reliable, high-speed Internet or a lack of access to electronic				
519	devices needed to use such services and technologies.				
520	g. Any other related issues as determined by the				
521	department.				
522	(7) (a) STUDYThe department, in consultation with the				
523	Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability,				
524	shall conduct a study on the use of technology to reduce				
525	preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and				
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526 eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health 527 outcomes in this state. The study must assess current and future 528 uses of artificial intelligence technologies in maternal health 529 care, including all of the following: 530 1. The extent to which artificial intelligence 531 technologies are currently being used in maternal health care. 532 2. The extent to which artificial intelligence 533 technologies have exacerbated racial or ethnic biases in 534 maternal health care. 535 3. Recommendations for reducing racial or ethnic biases in artificial intelligence technologies used in maternal health 536 537 care. 538 4. Recommendations for potential applications of 539 artificial intelligence technologies that could improve maternal 540 health outcomes, particularly for minority women. 541 5. Recommendations for privacy and security safeguards 542 that should be implemented in the development of artificial 543 intelligence technologies in maternal health care. 544 (b) By July 1, 2023, the department shall submit to the 545 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that includes its findings and 546 547 recommendations based on the study required in paragraph (a). 548 (8) RULES.-The department shall adopt rules to implement 549 this section. 550 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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