

By Senator Smith

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to drowning prevention education;
creating s. 383.3363, F.S.; requiring the Department
of Health to develop educational materials on drowning
prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices
for specified purposes; providing requirements for
such materials; requiring hospitals, birth centers,
and home birth providers to provide the educational
materials to new parents and caregivers as part of
their postpartum education and care; requiring
hospitals, birth centers, and home health providers to
maintain proof of compliance with the required
distribution of the educational materials and make
such records available to the Agency for Health Care
Administration upon request; requiring childbirth
educators to provide the informational materials to
parents or caregivers receiving childbirth education
from them; amending ss. 383.318 and 395.1053, F.S.;
conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 383.3363, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

383.3363 Education on drowning prevention safety measures
and safe bathing practices.-

(1) The Department of Health shall develop educational
materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe

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30 bathing practices to be distributed to parents or caregivers as
31 part of postpartum or childbirth education provided by
32 hospitals, birth centers, home birth providers, and childbirth
33 educators in this state. The materials must include, but need
34 not be limited to, instruction on all of the following:

35 (a) The increased risk of drowning for infants and toddlers
36 in bathtubs, pools, and other water sources, citing available
37 data on such drownings.

38 (b) Water safety measures parents can employ to prevent
39 drowning, emphasizing the importance of constant supervision of
40 infants and children while they are around water and the
41 benefits of early childhood swimming lessons and water
42 competency programs as an added layer of protection from
43 drownings.

44 (c) Additional safety hazards in the home setting and
45 evidence-based safe bathing practices.

46 (2) Each hospital, birth center, and home birth provider
47 providing maternity, prenatal, and newborn services shall
48 provide the educational materials developed under subsection (1)
49 to the parents or caregivers of a newborn as part of its
50 postpartum education and care. Hospitals, birth centers, and
51 home birth providers shall maintain proof of compliance with
52 this subsection and make such records available to the Agency
53 for Health Care Administration upon request.

54 (3) Childbirth educators shall provide the educational
55 materials developed under subsection (1) to the parents or
56 caregivers receiving childbirth education.

57 Section 2. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (4) of
58 section 383.318, Florida Statutes, to read:

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383.318 Postpartum care for birth center clients and infants.—

(4) The birth center shall provide a postpartum evaluation and followup care that includes all of the following:

(j) Provision of the educational materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices developed by the Department of Health under s. 383.3363. Birth centers shall maintain proof of compliance with the requirements of this paragraph and make such records available to the Agency for Health Care Administration upon request.

Section 3. Section 395.1053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

395.1053 Postpartum education.—

(1) A hospital that provides birthing services shall provide each parent with postpartum education on the care of newborns, which must include all of the following:

(a) ~~incorporate~~ Information on safe sleep practices and the possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death. ~~into the hospital's postpartum instruction on the care of newborns and provide to each parent~~

(b) Provision of the informational pamphlet on infant and childhood eye and vision disorders created by the department pursuant to s. 383.14(3)(h).

(c) Provision of the educational materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices developed by the department under s. 383.3363.

(2) Hospitals shall maintain proof of compliance with the requirements of this section and make such records available to the agency upon request.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.