

9398

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 25, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to midwifery birth  
centers

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2801 of the public health law, as  
2 separately amended by chapters 297 and 416 of the laws of 1983, is  
3 amended to read as follows:  
4 1. "Hospital" means a facility or institution engaged principally in  
5 providing services by or under the supervision of a physician or, in the  
6 case of a dental clinic or dental dispensary, of a dentist, OR, IN THE  
7 CASE OF A MIDWIFERY BIRTH CENTER, OF A MIDWIFE, for the prevention,  
8 diagnosis or treatment of human disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
9 physical condition, including, but not limited to, a general hospital,  
10 public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center, dental clin-  
11 ic, dental dispensary, rehabilitation center other than a facility used  
12 solely for vocational rehabilitation, nursing home, tuberculosis hospi-  
13 tal, chronic disease hospital, maternity hospital, MIDWIFERY BIRTH  
14 CENTER, lying-in-asylum, out-patient department, out-patient lodge,  
15 dispensary and a laboratory or central service facility serving one or  
16 more such institutions, but the term hospital shall not include an  
17 institution, sanitarium or other facility engaged principally in provid-  
18 ing services for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of mental disa-  
19 bility and which is subject to the powers of visitation, examination,  
20 inspection and investigation of the department of mental hygiene except  
21 for those distinct parts of such a facility which provide hospital  
22 service. The provisions of this article shall not apply to a facility or  
23 institution engaged principally in providing services by or under the  
24 supervision of the bona fide members and adherents of a recognized reli-  
25 gious organization whose teachings include reliance on spiritual means  
26 through prayer alone for healing in the practice of the religion of such  
27 organization and where services are provided in accordance with those  
28 teachings.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD14664-01-4

1 S 2. Section 2801 of the public health law is amended by adding a new  
2 subdivision 11 to read as follows:

3 11. "MIDWIFERY BIRTH CENTER" MEANS A HOSPITAL ENGAGED PRINCIPALLY IN  
4 PROVIDING PRENATAL AND OBSTETRIC CARE, WHERE SUCH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED  
5 PRINCIPALLY BY MIDWIVES.

6 S 3. Section 2803 of the public health law is amended by adding a new  
7 subdivision 11 to read as follows:

8 11. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE REGULATIONS RELATING TO MIDWIFERY  
9 BIRTH CENTERS, INCLUDING RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND  
10 OPERATION, CONSIDERING THE STANDARDS OF STATE AND NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL  
11 ASSOCIATIONS OF MIDWIFERY BIRTH CENTERS, IN CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES  
12 OF MIDWIVES, MIDWIFERY BIRTH CENTERS, AND GENERAL HOSPITALS  
13 PROVIDING OBSTETRIC SERVICES.

14 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.