



Texas Women's  
Healthcare Coalition

# Reducing Backlog in Maternal Mortality Data Review

**HB 713 by Rep. Donna Howard**

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Allows nurses who serve on the MMMRC to review maternal mortality cases in the context of that body and work without extensive redactions.

This bill streamlines the reporting of maternal mortality cases for healthcare providers, reducing delays in data analysis and reporting to the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.

## **What is the Texas MMMRC, and what does it do?**

The Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) is a 23-member committee held in the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The MMMRC studies pregnancy-related deaths and maternal health trends across Texas. Its membership includes physicians, nurses, midwives, and specialists. A key function of the MMMRC is to publish a biennial report detailing current maternal mortality and morbidity trends, case review findings, and preventative recommendations. (1)

## **Why do healthcare providers need this reporting exemption?**

Currently, Texas nurses are required to report cases of misconduct under the Nursing Practice Act. This makes it impossible to review a full case record on the MMMRC without having to report problems that occurred to the appropriate medical board.

As a result, DSHS is redacting cases before nurses on the MMMRC can review them. DSHS and the MMMRC report that it takes them 45 hours, on average, to complete case information redactions, and then another 20 hours to complete case review.

The data redaction process has caused significant delays in preparing the MMMRC's report. In 2022, the committee missed its report deadline because members were still reviewing cases from 2019. (2)



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### **Why does Texas need this bill?**

The MMMRC's work is crucial to understanding and combatting maternal mortality and adverse maternal health outcomes in Texas. Our state holds a significantly high maternal mortality rate of 28.2 deaths of birthing mothers per 100,000 births. (3) The MMMRC's 2024 report found that the majority of pregnancy-related deaths in Texas are preventable, and 25% of the pregnancy-related deaths in 2020 occurred between 43 days and one year postpartum. (4)

**Texas needs to support the MMMRC in collecting maternal mortality data promptly to help prevent the needless deaths of women and mothers in our state.**

### **Who are we?**

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) is a partnership of 77 healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families. We work to ensure access to preventive and preconception care - including health screenings and contraception - for all Texas women.

### **References**

1. Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), [www.dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health/maternal-mortality-morbidity-review-committee](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health/maternal-mortality-morbidity-review-committee).
2. Goudeau, Ashley, and Ella Mulligan. Bill Aims to Reduce Texas' Backlog of Maternal Death Cases Due for Review, KVUE, 17 Mar. 2025, [www.kvue.com/article/news/politics/texas-legislature/texas-maternal-death-cases-backlog-bill-review-committee/269-0de11801-7b53-400a-91a6-95025283b799](http://www.kvue.com/article/news/politics/texas-legislature/texas-maternal-death-cases-backlog-bill-review-committee/269-0de11801-7b53-400a-91a6-95025283b799).
3. 2024 March of Dimes Report Card for Texas, March of Dimes, 2024.
4. Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report 2024, Texas Health and Human Services, Sep. 2024.