

**Chapter:** 152

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**Topic:** Birth defects information system

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### Overview

This act provides that the birth defects information system administered by the commissioner of health includes birth defects that develop in pregnancies resulting in reportable fetal deaths, as well as birth defects that develop in pregnancies resulting in live births.

#### Section

- 1 **Establishment.** Amends § 144.2215, subd. 1. In a subdivision establishing a birth defects information system administered by the commissioner of health, expands the system to include birth defects that develop during pregnancy and result in reportable fetal death. (A reportable fetal death is the death of a fetus of 20 or more weeks gestation.) Under current law, the system only collects data on birth defects that develop during pregnancy and result in live birth.
- 2 **Opt out.** Amends § 144.2216, subd. 4. In a subdivision allowing parents and legal guardians to opt out of having data held in the birth defects information system, clarifies that the authorization to opt out also applies to parents and legal guardians when a pregnancy resulted in fetal death. Also requires the commissioner of health, when informing parents and legal guardians of the option to request removal of personal identifying information from the birth defects information system, of the privacy implications of having the commissioner retain birth defect records.