
DIGEST

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HB 272 Original

2023 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Requires health insurance coverage for maternity support services provided by a doula.

Proposed law affirms a doula as an individual who is trained to provide physical, emotional, and educational support, but not medical or midwifery care, to pregnant and birthing women and their families before, during, and after childbirth.

Proposed law outlines legislative findings with respect to doulas. Affirms the state of La. as a state with one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the U.S. Further affirms that the state of La. has a compelling interest and obligation to promote practices that improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Proposed law requires a health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state that provides benefits for maternity services to include coverage for maternity support services provided by a doula before, during, and after childbirth. Further provides that such coverage may be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the health coverage plan.

Proposed law prohibits a health coverage plan from prescribing coverage requirements for maternity support services of a doula that preclude a doula from practice in this state. Authorizes a doula to practice in this state while foregoing eligible reimbursement via a health coverage plan; however, proposed law requires a doula opting for reimbursement via a health coverage plan to have approved registration with the La. Doula Registry Board.

Proposed law prohibits terminology in any health coverage plan or contract deemed discriminatory against doulas and maternity support services provided by doulas. Further provides that such terminology is void and unenforceable.

Proposed law defines "doula", "health coverage plan", and "maternity support services".

Proposed law applies to a policy, contract, or health coverage plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2024 and requires a current policy, contract, or plan to convert to the provisions of proposed law by Jan. 1, 2024.

Present law (R.S. 22:1059.2) requires a health coverage plan to provide inpatient and outpatient coverage benefits for up to 2 months for medically necessary pasteurized donor human milk under certain conditions. Proposed law redesignates the citation of present law from R.S. 22:1059.2 to

R.S. 22:1059.3 and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 22:1059.2; Adds R.S. 22:1059.3)