

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 514

2025 Regular Session

Willard

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Modifies the Louisiana Doula Registry Board within the Louisiana Department of Health and provides for respective regulatory authority

DIGEST

Present law provides for the La. Doula Registry Board (board) within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH). Outlines legislative findings and provides the board’s purpose, composition, and duties. Proposed law deletes legislative findings and generally retains present law.

Present law requires the board to review applications for doulas registering to receive health insurance reimbursement in the state of La.; approve or deny such applications; notify applicants of approval or denial of doula registration status; and maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement.

Proposed law grants the board full authority to review and approve applications for doulas seeking registration to receive health insurance reimbursement; notify applicants of approval or denial of registration status; and maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.

Present law requires board membership to include certain members of doula services organizations who represent all specified LDH regions of the state. Further requires membership to include a doula with lactation training, a person who has used a doula for at least two births, and representatives from certain organizations that provide education and community support services relative to maternal health.

Proposed law requires the board to consist of nine individuals who serve as doulas from all nine of the geographic regions in the state of La., with two representing an organization providing doula services. Further requires board membership to include one woman with lived experience of birth under doula care appointed by the medical director of the La. Perinatal Quality Collaborative and one representative from Sista Midwife Productions.

Proposed law requires the medical director of the La. Perinatal Quality Collaborative to appoint members of the board.

Present law requires board members to serve without compensation for a term of up to two years. Further provides the option for reappointment. Proposed law retains present law but authorizes board members to be reimbursed for travel expenses approved by the secretary of LDH in accordance with regulations of the division of administration.

Present law requires the board to elect a chairperson. Proposed law retains present law and requires the chairperson to dismiss from membership any members who are absent from more than three in-person meetings within a calendar year.

Present law requires LDH to promulgate and adopt rules in accordance with the APA to implement the provisions for the board.

Present law requires LDH to provide support staff to the board. Proposed law retains present law but requires LDH staff to be administrative staff who facilitate the process for registration of doulas per promulgated rules and establish guidelines; ensure that all administrative guidelines align with board policies; provide logistical support in processing applications; and issue notifications of approval or denial of doula registration status.

(Amends R.S. 22:1059.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Delete the requirement that the La. Doula Registry Board must implement policies that promote fairness, transparency, safety, equitable care, and accessibility.
2. Restore present law requirement that the La. Doula Registry Board must maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in La.
3. Restore present law requirement that the board must include one doula with lactation training, one representative from Community Birth Companion, one representative from Birthmark Doula Collective, and one representative from H.E.R. Institute.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Restore present law that outline the tasks of the doula registry board.
2. Establish the doula registry board and provide it shall consist of fifteen members.
3. Add one woman with lived experience of birth under doula care in this state appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee as a member of the doula registry board.
4. Change the number from seven to nine for the individuals who serve as a doula from all nine of Louisiana's geographic regions or a designee appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.
5. Clarify the doula with lactation training must be appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.
6. Restore present law representative from Sista Midwife Productions to the doula registry board.
7. Remove one member from Community Birth Companion from the doula registry board.
8. Remove the Qualities Initiatives Manager of the LDH bureau of family health or designee from the doula registry board.
9. Clarify that travel approved by the secretary of the LDH may be reimbursed in accordance with travel regulations of the division of administration.
10. Add the assistant secretary of the LDH, office of public health or his designee to the members of the nonvoting subcommittee.
11. Delete language that states the department shall not independently determine an applicant's eligibility for registration and the review of all applications before sending them to the doula registry board.
12. Provide for administrative staff duties.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.