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## DIGEST

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HB 190 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Willard

**Abstract:** Provides for health insurance coverage for maternity services provided by certified nurse midwives, certified professional midwives, and doulas.

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state that provides benefits for maternity services to include coverage for healthcare services provided by a certified midwife, subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the health coverage plan.

Proposed law entitles the insured or other beneficiary of benefits under the health coverage plan to reimbursement for services within the lawful scope of practice of a midwife as defined in law.

Proposed law prohibits a health coverage plan from differentiating between services performed by midwives and physicians with respect to copayments, annual deductible amounts, or coinsurance percentages.

Proposed law prohibits terminology in any health coverage plan policy or contract deemed discriminatory against certified nurse midwives, certified professional midwives, and the practice of midwifery. Further prohibits terminology that inhibits reimbursement for midwifery services at the in-network rate.

Proposed law defines "health coverage plan" and "midwife".

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Doula Registry board (doula registry board), outlines legislative findings, and details the board's purpose, composition, and duties. Requires board membership to include certain members who represent all areas of the state, and members who are part of organizations relative to doula practice or who demonstrate work rooted in community, health equity, and training practices. Further authorizes the doula registry board to create subcommittees composed of certain persons who may not be board members or voting members.

Proposed law requires the doula registry 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 in this state.

Proposed law requires regional representatives of the board to be appointed from the regions specified on a certain map provided by LDH. Requires LDH to promulgate administrative rules in

accordance with the APA to implement the provisions necessary for the doula registry board. Further requires LDH to provide support staff to the doula registry board.

Proposed law authorizes a doula to practice in this state, regardless of whether the doula is registered with the board.

Proposed law requires a policy, contract, or health coverage plan to convert to the provisions of proposed law by Jan. 1, 2023.

Effective Jan. 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 22:1059 and 1059.1)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Insurance to the original bill:

1. Prohibit a health coverage plan from differentiating between services performed by midwives and physicians with respect to copayments, annual deductible amounts, or coinsurance percentages.
2. Remove certain language regarding discrimination of services between midwives and physicians.
3. Create the Louisiana Doula Registry board, outline legislative findings, and detail the board's purpose, composition, and duties. Authorize a doula to practice in this state, regardless of whether the doula is registered with the board. Further require the La. Department of Health to provide support staff to the doula registry board.
4. Change the effective date for when a policy, contract, or health coverage plan shall convert to the provisions of proposed law from Jan. 1, 2022 to Jan. 1, 2023.
5. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove language relative to provider rates.
2. Specify for certain regional representatives of the doula registry board to be appointed from the regions specified on the Administrative Regions and District Map supplied by LDH.
3. Require LDH to promulgate all such administrative rules in accordance with the APA to

implement the provisions necessary for the doula registry board.

4. Make technical changes.