

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 270 (HB 272)

2023 Regular Session

Willard

New 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.

New 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.

New law requires a health coverage plan (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 to pregnant and birthing women before, during, and after childbirth.

New law provides that the coverage may be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the plan. Further provides that such coverage may also be subject to a limit of \$1,500 per pregnancy.

New law prohibits a 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 plan; however, new law requires a doula opting for reimbursement via a plan to have approved registration with the La. Doula Registry Board.

New law authorizes a health insurance issuer or plan to establish additional credentialing standards for contracting with doulas.

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

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

New law applies to a policy, contract, or plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2024, and requires a current policy, contract, or plan to convert to the provisions of new law by Jan. 1, 2025.

Existing law (R.S. 22:1059.2) requires a plan to provide inpatient and outpatient coverage benefits for up to 2 months for medically necessary pasteurized donor human milk under certain conditions.

New law redesignates the citation of existing law from R.S. 22:1059.2 to R.S. 22:1059.3 and otherwise retains existing law.

Effective August 1, 2023.

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