
DIGEST

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HB 702 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Requires Medicaid coverage for doula services.

Proposed law provides legislative findings that list leading professional societies that recognize the well-established benefits of doula services and the research that demonstrates the benefits of doula support.

Proposed law defines "doula" and "doula treatment or care".

Proposed law requires any Medicaid coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state that provides benefits for maternity services to provide coverage for services provided by a doula before, during, and after childbirth.

Proposed law provides that the Medicaid coverage may also be subject to a minimum service rate per pregnancy of \$1,250.

Proposed law provides that the doula services shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

- (1) Support and assistance during labor and childbirth.
- (2) Prenatal and postpartum support and education.
- (3) Breastfeeding assistance and lactation support.
- (4) Parenting education.
- (5) Support for a birthing person after the loss of a pregnancy.

Proposed law provides that, at a minimum, each Medicaid plan must comply with the provisions of proposed law and provide coverage for the following services:

- (1) 5 prenatal visits for up to 90 minutes.
- (2) 3 postpartum visits for up to 90 minutes.
- (3) Assistance and attendance during labor and birth, including Cesarean deliveries.

Proposed law allows a doula to opt to practice in this state and forego any eligible reimbursement via Medicaid.

Proposed law provides that doulas opting for reimbursement via a health coverage plan must have approved registration with the La. Doula Registry Board.

Proposed law requires all doulas with approved registration by the La. Doula Registry Board to have acceptance as a provider of such services with all state Medicaid plans.

Proposed law prohibits any Medicaid plan or contract that contains discriminatory terminology against doulas and doula services.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law are applicable to any new policy, contract, program, or Medicaid plan issued on and after Aug. 1, 2024. Proposed law further provides that any policy, contract, or Medicaid plan in effect prior to Aug. 1, 2024 shall be converted to conform to the provisions of proposed law on or before the renewal date, but no later than Jan. 1, 2025.

Proposed law requires the healthcare provider to make a determination of the individual's pregnancy or postpartum status.

Proposed law establishes certain requirements for the secretary of LDH in compliance with proposed law.

Proposed law requires doula care to be eligible for coverage to meet minimum standards outside of the healthcare facility.

(Adds R.S. 46:977.32-977.34)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change the requirements for Medicaid coverage from 3 prenatal visits that last up to 90 minutes to 5.
2. Add the performance of Cesarean deliveries to the provision that requires doula assistance and attendance during labor and childbirth.
3. Remove the requirement for a healthcare facility to determine a prospective enrollee's eligibility for coverage.
4. Insert language that requires a determination of the individual's pregnancy or postpartum status.

5. Require doula care to be eligible for coverage and meet minimum standards outside of the healthcare facility.
6. Make technical corrections.