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## DIGEST

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HB 514 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Willard

**Abstract:** Modifies the La. Doula Registry Board and provides regulatory authority and restrictions relative to the La. Doula Registry Board and La. Dept. of Health.

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 independently review and approve applications for doulas seeking registration to receive health insurance reimbursement; oversee and manage the registration process; and establish and enforce administrative guidelines for registration.

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 seven individuals who serve as doulas within different 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 and the Quality Initiative Manager of the bureau of family health within LDH.

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 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. Proposed law retains present law and further requires LDH to implement provisions as directed by the board, ensuring the board retains full oversight over regulatory actions.

Proposed law provides that the role of LDH is strictly administrative and does not supersede the authority of the board in establishing criteria, reviewing applications, or setting policies. Further provides the board with sole authority to set criteria and standards for doula registration.

Proposed law prohibits LDH from independently determining an applicant's eligibility for registration. Requires LDH to review applications prior to sending to the board to ensure that applicants are eligible under board-established guidelines.

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; 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. Further requires all work provided by LDH staff to be in alignment with board-established policies and procedures in conjunction with the board's full decision-making authority.

(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.