

---

 DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

SB 300 Re-Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Duplessis

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 the following healthcare services:

- (1) Nutrition counseling services provided by a licensed dietitian or licensed nutritionist in the first trimester of the pregnancy, regardless of whether there is a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or any other chronic health condition, when recommended by the treating healthcare provider.
- (2) Postpartum services provided by a qualified lactation care provider.

Proposed law provides that the nutrition counseling services may be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.

Proposed law provides that the coverage for lactation services are considered a preventive benefit pursuant to federal law. Further provides that such coverage is not subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.

Proposed law requires a qualified lactation care provider to achieve and maintain certain certification requirements from a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

Proposed law prohibits terminology in any health coverage plan policy or contract that is discriminatory against licensed dietitians, licensed nutritionists, lactation consultants, or their services.

Proposed law defines "breastfeeding counselor", "certified breastfeeding specialist", "certified lactation counselor", "certified lactation consultant", "certified lactation educator", "health coverage plan", "licensed dietitian", "licensed nutritionist", "nationally recognized accreditation agency", and "qualified lactation care provider".

Proposed law applies to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2026, and requires any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in effect prior to Jan. 1, 2026, to conform to proposed law on or before the renewal date, but no later than Jan. 1, 2027.

(Adds R.S. 22:1059.4 and 1059.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Insurance to the original bill

1. Changes postpartum services from lactation consultant to qualified lactation care provider.
2. Adds definitions.
3. Adds requirements to be a qualified lactation care provider.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Corrects the name of the certifying entity for a qualified lactation care provider, breastfeeding counselor, and lactation consultant.
2. Removes the definition of "nationally recognized accreditation program".
3. Changes the application of proposed law to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2026, and requires any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in effect prior to Jan. 1, 2026, to convert to conform to proposed law on or before the renewal date, but no later than Jan. 1, 2027.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill

1. Specifies that lactation services are a preventive benefit pursuant to federal law.
2. Requires a qualified lactation care provider to achieve and maintain certain certification requirements from a nationally recognized accreditation agency.
3. Defines "certified lactation counselor", "certified breastfeeding specialist", "certified lactation consultant", "certified lactation educator", and "qualified lactation care provider".
4. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Insurance to the re-engrossed bill:

1. Remove an inaccurate certifying authority for breastfeeding counselors.
2. Correct the certifying authority for certified lactation counselors.
3. Clarify relative to certified lactation consultants and provide that such consultants are certified to address the full range of breastfeeding care.
4. Make technical changes.