

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 514

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Modifies the Louisiana Doula Registry Board within the Louisiana Department of Health and provides for respective regulatory authority

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1059.1, relative to the Louisiana Doula Registry Board; to
3 provide for board composition; to provide with respect to the regulatory authority of
4 the Louisiana Doula Registry Board and the Louisiana Department of Health; to
5 provide relative to administrative staff and further rulemaking requirements of the
6 Louisiana Department of Health; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 22:1059.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §1059.1. ~~Legislative findings;~~ Louisiana Doula Registry Board; purpose;
10 composition; duties of the board; administrative staff; rulemaking authority

11 A.(1) ~~The legislature hereby finds and declares that research indicates~~
12 ~~maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, infant mortality, preterm birth, and~~
13 ~~unexpected outcomes of pregnancy and birth resulting in significant health~~
14 ~~consequences are rising in the United States, and that these outcomes occur more~~
15 ~~frequently in Louisiana than in other states. Louisiana has the highest maternal death~~
16 ~~rate in the nation and the second highest infant death rate in the nation.~~

17 (2) ~~The benefits of doula care have been documented in numerous studies~~
18 ~~including the 2017 Cochrane Review of twenty-six trials of continuous labor support~~
19 ~~and doula care involving over fifteen thousand women in seventeen different~~

1 ~~countries. The numerous benefits of doula care include decreased cesarean sections,~~
2 ~~increased spontaneous vaginal births, shortened duration of birth, increased maternal~~
3 ~~satisfaction postpartum, improved breastfeeding rates, and lower rates of preterm~~
4 ~~labor and low birth weight.~~

5 ~~B.~~(1)(a) The legislature hereby creates within the Louisiana Department of
6 Health the Louisiana Doula Registry Board, hereafter referred to in this Section as
7 the "doula registry board", for the purpose of reviewing and approving doula
8 registration to allow for health insurance reimbursement of doula services.

9 (b) In consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, the ~~The~~ doula
10 registry board shall ~~create~~ establish the criteria for the registration application,
11 implement guidelines for registration process, review submitted doula registration
12 applications, and grant registration status to doulas seeking health insurance
13 reimbursement to promote safe and equitable care for every mother and every birth
14 in this state.

15 (2) For purposes of this Section, "doula" means an individual who has been
16 trained to provide physical, emotional, and educational support, but not medical or
17 midwifery care, to pregnant and birthing women and their families before, during,
18 and after childbirth.

19 ~~C.~~ B. The doula registry board shall perform all of the following tasks,
20 subject to promulgated rules as established guidelines:

21 (1) Review applications for doulas to register to receive health insurance
22 reimbursement in Louisiana.

23 (2) Approve applications to designate registered doula status.

24 (3) Notify applicants of approval or denial of doula registration status.

25 (4) Maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance
26 reimbursement in Louisiana.

27 ~~D.~~ C.(1) The doula registry board shall be composed of the following fifteen
28 members:

1 (a) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
2 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 1 appointed by the medical director of the~~
3 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative~~ Nine individuals who serve as a doula
4 ~~from all nine of Louisiana's geographic regions or a designee appointed by the~~
5 ~~medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.~~

6 (b) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
7 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 2 appointed by the medical director of the~~
8 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

9 (c) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
10 ~~giving birth in Region 3 appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal~~
11 ~~Quality Collaborative.~~

12 (d) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
13 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 4 appointed by the medical director of the~~
14 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

15 (e) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
16 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 5 appointed by the medical director of the~~
17 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

18 (f) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
19 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 6 appointed by the medical director of the~~
20 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

21 (g) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
22 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 7 appointed by the medical director of the~~
23 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

24 (h) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
25 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 8 appointed by the medical director of the~~
26 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

27 (i) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
28 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 9 appointed by the medical director of the~~
29 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.~~

1 ~~(j)~~ (b) One woman with lived experience of birth under doula care in this
2 state appointed by the medical director of Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative,
3 or his designee. ~~One person with lived experience having used doula services for at~~
4 ~~least two births.~~

5 ~~(k)~~ (c) One doula with lactation training appointed by the medical director
6 of Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.

7 ~~(l)~~ (d) One representative from Sista Midwife Productions.

8 ~~(m)~~ ~~One representative from Community Birth Companion.~~

9 ~~(n)~~ (e) One representative from Birthmark Doula Collective.

10 ~~(o)~~ (f) One representative from H.E.R. Institute.

11 (2) Members of the doula registry board shall be appointed by the medical
12 director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or a designee.

13 ~~(2)~~ (3) The doula registry board shall elect from among its members a
14 practicing doula as chairperson. In addition, the doula registry board may designate
15 any other officers it deems necessary from its membership.

16 ~~(3)~~ (4) Members of the doula registry board shall serve ~~without~~
17 ~~compensation for up to~~ for a term of two years with the option for reappointment.
18 Members of the doula registry board shall receive no salary for their services but
19 may be reimbursed for travel approved by the secretary of the Louisiana Department
20 of Health in accordance with travel regulations of the division of administration.

21 ~~(4)~~ (5) The doula registry board shall hold quarterly public meetings unless
22 otherwise provided by vote of the doula registry board or by order of the chairperson.
23 The chairperson shall dismiss from the board any members who are absent from
24 more than three in-person meetings within a calendar year.

25 ~~(5)~~ (6) The doula registry board may establish subcommittees and appoint
26 persons to those subcommittees, including persons who are not board members, nor
27 voting members, as it deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish its goals.

28 E. D. Members of the nonvoting subcommittee shall include and are not
29 limited to all of the following:

(1) One representative of New Orleans Breastfeeding Center.

(2) One representative of March of Dimes.

(3) One representative of National Birth Equity Collaborative.

(4) One representative of Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies.

(5) One obstetrician with demonstrated work rooted in community, health equity, and training in equitable practices.

(6) One certified professional midwife.

(7) One certified nurse midwife.

(8) One community nurse practitioner.

(9) One representative from Louisiana Medicaid.

(10) One representative from Louisiana Hospital Association.

(11) One representative from each private health insurer in Louisiana as determined by the doula registry board.

(12) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health or his designee.

~~F. The regional representatives described in Paragraph (D)(1) of this Section shall be appointed from the regions specified on the Administrative Regions and Districts map of the Louisiana Department of Health, hereinafter referred to as the "department".~~

~~G. E.~~ The department Louisiana Department of Health, hereafter referred to in this Section as the "department", shall promulgate and adopt all such rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

~~H. F.~~ The department shall provide ~~staff support~~ administrative staff to support the doula registry board. Assigned staff shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Facilitate the process for registration of doulas per promulgated rules and established guidelines.

(2) Provide logistical support in processing applications.

1 (3) Issue notifications of approval or denial of doula registration status upon
2 decision by the doula registry board in accordance with promulgated rules and
3 established guidelines.

4 ~~±~~ G. Nothing in this Section prohibits any person from practicing as a doula
5 in this state, regardless of whether such person is registered in accordance with the
6 provisions of this Section.

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)]

HB 514 Reengrossed

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 review and approve applications for doulas seeking registration to receive health insurance reimbursement; notify applicants of approval or denial of registration status; and maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.

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 nine individuals who serve as doulas from all nine of the 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 appointed by the medical director of the La. Perinatal Quality Collaborative and one representative from Sista Midwife Productions.

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 approved by the secretary of LDH 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.

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 per promulgated rules and establish guidelines; 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.

(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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Restore present law that outline the tasks of the doula registry board.
2. Establish the doula registry board and provide it shall consist of fifteen members.
3. Add one woman with lived experience of birth under doula care in this state appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee as a member of the doula registry board.
4. Change the number ~~from seven to~~ nine for the individuals who serve as a doula from all nine of Louisiana's geographic regions or a designee appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.
5. Clarify the doula with lactation training must be appointed by the medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.
6. Restore present law representative from Sista Midwife Productions to the doula registry board.
7. Remove one member from Community Birth Companion from the doula registry board.
8. Remove the Qualities Initiatives Manager of the Louisiana Department of Health bureau of family health or designee from the doula registry board.

9. Clarify that travel approved by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health may be reimbursed in accordance with travel regulations of the division of administration.
10. Add the assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health or his designee to the members of the nonvoting subcommittee.
11. Delete language that states the department shall not independently determine an applicant's eligibility for registration and the review of all applications before sending them to the doula registry board.
12. Provide for administrative staff duties.