

ACT No. 287

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 514

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

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

~~(2) The benefits of doula care have been documented in numerous studies including the 2017 Cochrane Review of twenty-six trials of continuous labor support 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 the registration process, review submitted doula
12 registration applications, and grant registration status to doulas seeking health
13 insurance reimbursement to promote safe and equitable care for every mother and
14 every birth 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 ~~E.~~ B. The doula registry board shall perform all of the following tasks,
20 subject to promulgated rules and 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
28 fourteen members:

29 (a) ~~One representative of an organization providing doula services for people~~
30 ~~giving birth in Louisiana in Region 1 appointed by the medical director of the~~

1 ~~Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative~~ Nine individuals who serve as a doula
2 from all nine of Louisiana's geographic regions or a designee appointed by the
3 medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 ~~(j)~~ (b) One woman with lived experience of birth under doula care in this
29 state appointed by the medical director of Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative,

1 ~~or his designee. One person with lived experience having used doula services for at~~
2 ~~least two births.~~

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

5 ~~(h)~~ (d) One representative from Sista Midwife Productions.

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

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

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

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

11 ~~(2)~~ (3) The doula registry board shall elect from among its members a
12 practicing doula as chairperson. In addition, the doula registry board may designate
13 any other officers it deems necessary from its membership.

14 ~~(3)~~ (4) Members of the doula registry board shall serve ~~without~~
15 ~~compensation for up to~~ for a term of two years with the option for reappointment.
16 Members of the doula registry board shall receive no salary for their services but
17 may be reimbursed for travel approved by the secretary of the Louisiana Department
18 of Health in accordance with travel regulations of the division of administration.

19 ~~(4)~~ (5) The doula registry board shall hold quarterly public meetings unless
20 otherwise provided by vote of the doula registry board or by order of the chairperson.
21 The chairperson shall dismiss from the board any members who are absent from
22 more than three in-person meetings within a calendar year.

23 ~~(5)~~ (6) The doula registry board may establish subcommittees and appoint
24 persons to those subcommittees, including persons who are not board members, nor
25 voting members, as it deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish its goals.

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

28 (1) One representative of New Orleans Breastfeeding Center.

29 (2) One representative of March of Dimes.

30 (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.

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

1 ~~†~~ G. Nothing in this Section prohibits any person from practicing as a doula
2 in this state, regardless of whether such person is registered in accordance with the
3 provisions of this Section.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____