
DIGEST

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HB 190 Original

2021 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Requires health insurance coverage for maternity services provided by certified nurse midwives, certified professional midwives, and doulas and further requires that Medicaid rates paid for health services delivered by midwives be at least equal to the Medicare rates for those services.

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 healthcare services provided by a certified midwife, subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the health coverage plan.

Proposed law provides that the insured or other person entitled to benefits under the health coverage plan is entitled to reimbursement for services within the lawful scope of practice of a midwife as defined in law.

Proposed law prohibits discrimination in the amount of reimbursement allowed for midwifery services, whether performed by a midwife or physician, in instances where the services performed are within the lawful scope of practice of both professions.

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 services provided by a doula before, during, and after childbirth, subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the health coverage plan.

Proposed law prohibits preclusion of doula practice through requirements of health coverage plans to insure their services. Further authorizes a doula to practice in this state while foregoing any eligible reimbursement via a health coverage plan.

Proposed law prohibits terminology in any health coverage plan policy or contract deemed discriminatory against midwives, the practice of midwifery, doulas, and doula services. Further prohibits terminology that inhibits reimbursement for midwifery services at the in-network rate.

Proposed law defines "health coverage plan", "midwife", "doula", "department", "Medicaid", and "Medicare".

Proposed law requires that in administering the Medicaid program of this state, the La. Department of Health (LDH) shall ensure that Medicaid reimbursement rates paid for health services delivered

by licensed midwives are at least equal to the provider reimbursement rates paid by Medicare for those services.

Proposed law requires LDH to promulgate all such administrative rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 22:1059 and 1059.1) becomes effective Jan. 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 22:1059 and 1059.1 and R.S. 40:1244.1 and 1244.2)