STATE OF NEW YORK

3344--B

Cal. No. 243

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 5, 2019

Introduced by Sens. RAMOS, BIAGGI, GAUGHRAN, KRUEGER, RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Women's Issues -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to professional certification of doulas

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2509 to read as follows:

§ 2509. Certified doulas. 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) "Certified doula" means an individual certified under this section who provides certified doula services.

(b) "Certified doula services" means continuous emotional and physical support provided by a certified doula throughout labor and birth, and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods.

2. Use of title. Only a person certified under this section shall be authorized to use the title "certified doula".

3. Certificate. The commissioner shall issue a certificate as a certified doula to an individual who applies for certification and who qualifies under subdivision four of this section.

4. Requirements for a professional certification. To be certified under this section, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

(a) Application: file an application with the department.

(b) Education: satisfactorily:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(i) complete an educational program, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations; or

(ii) submit evidence of certification, the educational preparation for which is determined by the department to be equivalent to the foregoing, from any state or country, satisfactory to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

(c) Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

(d) Age: be at least eighteen years of age.

(e) Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department.

(f) Fee: pay a fee of forty dollars to the department for consideration of an application for certification.

5. Scope of practice. Nothing in this section authorizes a certified doula to engage in any act within the scope of practice of any other profession under title eight of the education law or any other law, unless the certified doula would be otherwise authorized to do so by law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the commissioner of health shall make regulations and take other actions reasonably necessary to implement this act on such date.