STATE OF NEW YORK

3344

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 5, 2019

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Women's Issues

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. Requirements for a professional certification. To qualify as a certified doula, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

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

(b) Education: satisfactorily:

(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.

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

LBD01668-01-9

(f) Fee: pay a fee of forty dollars to the department for admission to a department conducted examination for an initial license, a fee of forty dollars for each re-examination, a fee of forty dollars for an initial license for persons not requiring admission to a department conducted examination, and a fee of ten dollars for a limited permit.

4. Limited permit:

(a) A limited permit to practice certified doula services may be granted for a period not to exceed twelve months to an individual who has to the satisfaction of the department met all the requirements of subdivision three of this section except passing the examination.

(b) A limited permit shall entitle the holder to practice doula services only under the direct supervision of a certified doula.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year 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.