

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6168

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 3, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to permitting expecting and new mothers' access to their doulas and requiring maternal health care facilities provide a directory of available doulas

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section  
2 2500-1 to read as follows:

3 § 2500-1. Access to doulas. 1. When a person is admitted to a maternal  
4 health care facility for delivery and/or inpatient care post-delivery,  
5 such person may designate a doula to have access to such person and such  
6 person's newborn infants. The maternal health care facility shall not  
7 deny such person access to such person's designated doula nor shall a  
8 maternal health care facility deny a designated doula access to such  
9 person or such person's newborn infant regardless of where such person  
10 or such person's newborn infant is in the maternal health care facility.  
11 For the purposes of this section, the term "maternal health care facili-  
12 ty" shall mean a hospital or freestanding birthing center providing  
13 perinatal services in accordance with article twenty-eight of this chap-  
14 ter and applicable regulations.

15 2. The department shall require all maternal health care facilities to  
16 include a directory of practicing doulas on their websites. Such direc-  
17 tory shall include, but is not limited to, contact information, any  
18 credentials held, languages spoken, insurance accepted, and services  
19 provided. The information shall be:

20 (a) posted on the hospital's website as a printable file;

21 (b) available in each patient waiting room as a printed deliverable;  
22 and

23 (c) written in layperson's language and shall be made available in  
24 English and the six most common non-English languages spoken by individ-

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

LBD10180-02-3

1 uals with limited English proficiency in New York state as based on the  
2 most recent census.

3 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
4 have become a law.