

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7606

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 25, 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 doulas to be present in the operating room while a cesarean section is being performed

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-m to read as follows:

3 § 2500-m. Cesarean section; persons present. 1. No person shall be  
4 denied the ability to have a doula present in the operating room, for  
5 the duration such person is in an operating room, when such person is in  
6 the operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section and has no  
7 other support person available to them.

8 2. The department shall require all maternal healthcare facilities to  
9 include and/or post on the maternal healthcare facility's webpage,  
10 lobby, and patient waiting areas information stating a birthing parent  
11 is allowed to have a doula present in the operating room, for the dura-  
12 tion of such person is in an operating room, when such person is in the  
13 operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section when no other  
14 support person is available to the birthing person. Such information  
15 shall be written in layperson's language and shall be made available in  
16 English and the six most common non-English languages spoken by individ-  
17 uals with limited English proficiency in New York state as based on the  
18 most recent census. The department shall produce and provide maternal  
19 healthcare facilities with informational pamphlets stating a birthing  
20 parent shall be allowed to have a doula present in the operating room,  
21 for the duration of such person is in an operating room, when such  
22 person is in the operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section.  
23 The informational pamphlet shall be: available in each patient waiting  
24 area as a printed deliverable; written in layperson's language; and made

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

LBD10162-04-3

1 available in English and the six most common non-English languages  
2 spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency in New York state  
3 as based on the most recent census.

4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.