

STATE OF NEW YORK

9035

IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2024

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to doula friendly work spaces

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature acknowledges that
2 doulas face exclusionary measures in gaining recognition and overall
3 integration within the maternal health continuum, such as hospitals and
4 birthing centers. The legislature declares that the purpose of this act
5 is to study and report on the integration of doula care and services in
6 the healthcare continuum and to recommend best practices to designate
7 doula friendly spaces in New York state.

8 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2803-j-1
9 to read as follows:

10 § 2803-j-1. Designating doula friendly spaces study. 1. The department
11 shall conduct a study to examine and evaluate current practices on the
12 integration of doula care, services, and support within birthing
13 centers, hospitals, and other healthcare delivery facilities. This study
14 shall report such findings through comprehensive metrics on doula
15 friendliness in facilities across the geographic diversity of the state
16 that are licensed under this article. Factors and metrics to be
17 reported by the study shall include but not be limited to:

18 (a) Identifying and engaging with doula led and centered organizations
19 on their current programs regarding doula integration;

20 (b) Identifying hospitals and birthing centers that are doula friendly
21 in their operation;

22 (c) Identifying successful doula integration programs and initiatives
23 in hospitals and birthing centers in New York state; and

24 (d) Identifying successful doula integration programs and initiatives
25 in other states.

26 2. The study shall also make recommendations on best practices for the
27 state to help facilitate doula integration and doula friendliness in

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

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1 hospitals and birthing centers. Such recommendations shall include, but
2 not be limited to:

3 (a) Best practices that doulas currently operating in New York state
4 recommend for proper integration;

5 (b) Criteria for hospitals and birthing centers for integration of
6 doulas and doula care into the varying processes of birth;

7 (c) Criteria for how the state should best support the formal desig-
8 nation of doula friendly places;

9 (d) Criteria for how hospitals and birthing centers shall give doulas
10 visitor status or equal status in the facilities;

11 (e) Criteria for doula presence in the birthing room;

12 (f) Criteria for inclusion of doulas in the healthcare continuum;

13 (g) Best practices and criteria for the collection of data regarding
14 doula friendliness and integration; and

15 (h) Best practices for the reporting of metrics for doula friendliness
16 and integration.

17 3. On or before December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-four, the
18 department shall submit a final report containing all findings and
19 recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate,
20 and the speaker of the assembly.

21 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
22 have become a law.