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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The study shall also make recommendations on best practices for the 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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hospitals and birthing centers. Such recommendations shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

(c) Criteria for how the state should best support the formal designation of doula friendly places;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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