

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9035--A

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN, GUNTHER, ARDILA, AUBRY, DAVILA, LUCAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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.

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

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1 2. The study shall also make recommendations on best practices for the  
2 state to help facilitate doula integration and doula friendliness in  
3 hospitals and birthing centers. Such recommendations shall include, but  
4 not be limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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