

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5991

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 24, 2023

Introduced by Sens. PERSAUD, ADDABBO, FERNANDEZ, SEPULVEDA -- read twice  
and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee  
on Women's Issues

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 Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

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

§ 2500-1. Cesarean section; persons present. 1. No person shall be  
denied the ability to have a doula present in the operating room, for  
the duration such person is in an operating room, when such person is in  
the operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section.

2. The department shall require all maternal healthcare facilities to  
include and/or post on the maternal healthcare facility's webpage,  
lobby, and patient waiting areas information stating a birthing parent  
is allowed to have a doula present in the operating room, for the dura-  
tion of such person is in an operating room, when such person is in the  
operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section. Such information  
shall be written in layperson's language and shall be made available in  
English and the six most common non-English languages spoken by individ-  
uals with limited English proficiency in New York state as based on the  
most recent census. The department shall produce and provide maternal  
healthcare facilities with informational pamphlets stating a birthing  
parent shall be allowed to have a doula present in the operating room,  
for the duration of such person is in an operating room, when such  
person is in the operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section.  
The informational pamphlet shall be: available in each patient waiting  
area as a printed deliverable; written in layperson's language; and made  
available in English and the six most common non-English languages

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

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- 1 spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency in New York state
- 2 as based on the most recent census.
- 3 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.