STATE OF NEW YORK

5991--A

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 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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:

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

§ 2500-m. 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 and has no other support person available to them.

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 duration of such person is in an operating room, when such person is in the operating room for the purposes of a cesarean section when no other support person is available to the birthing person. 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 individuals 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.

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

LBD10162-03-3

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 spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency in New York state as based on the most recent census.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.