STATE OF NEW YORK

5992

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 expecting and new mothers' access to their doulas and requiring maternal health care facilities provide a directory of available doulas

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-l to read as follows:

§ 2500-l. Access to doulas. 1. When a person is admitted to a maternal health care facility for delivery and/or inpatient care post-delivery, such person may designate a doula to have access to such person and such person's newborn infants. The maternal health care facility shall not deny such person access to such person's designated doula nor shall a maternal health care facility deny a designated doula access to such person or such person's newborn infant regardless of where such person or such person's newborn infant is in the maternal health care facility. For the purposes of this section, the term "maternal health care facility" shall mean a hospital or freestanding birthing center providing perinatal services in accordance with article twenty-eight of this chapter and applicable regulations.

2. The department shall require all maternal health care facilities to include a directory of practicing doulas on their websites. Such directory shall include, but is not limited to, contact information, any credentials held, languages spoken, insurance accepted, and services provided. The information shall be:

(a) posted on the hospital's website as a printable file;

(b) available in each patient waiting room as a printed deliverable; and

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

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(c) 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.

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