STATE OF NEW YORK

9182

IN SENATE

May 2, 2024

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the professional certification of doulas

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 169 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 169
CERTIFIED DOULAS

Section 8875. Definitions.
8876. Use of title.
8877. Certificate.
8878. Requirements for a professional certification.
8879. Scope of practice.

§ 8875. Definitions. As used in this section:

1. "Certified doula" means an individual certified under this article who provides certified doula services.

2. "Certified doula services" means continuous emotional and physical support provided by a certified doula throughout labor and birth, and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods.

§ 8876. Use of title. Only a person certified under this article shall be authorized to use the title "certified doula".

§ 8877. Certificate. The commissioner shall issue a certificate as a certified doula to an individual who applies for certification and who qualifies under section eighty-eight hundred seventy-eight of this article.

§ 8878. Requirements for a professional certification. To be certified under this article, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

1. Application: file an application with the department.

2. Education: shall have attained a high school diploma, or the equivalent, and satisfactorily:

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

LBD15257-01-4

(a) complete an educational program, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations; or

(b) submit evidence of certification, the educational preparation for which is determined by the department to be equivalent to the foregoing, from any state or country, satisfactory to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

3. Examination: pass an examination satisfactory to the department and in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

4. Age: be at least eighteen years of age.

5. Character: be of good moral character as determined by the department.

6. Fee: pay a fee of forty dollars to the department for consideration of an application for certification.

§ 8879. Scope of practice. Nothing in this section shall authorize a certified doula to engage in any act within the scope of practice of any other profession under this title or any other law, unless the certified doula would be otherwise authorized to do so by law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.