STATE OF NEW YORK

1026

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to access to doulas; and to repeal a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to permitting doulas to be present in the operating room while a cesarean section is being performed, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5991-A and A. 7606

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

Section 1. A chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to permitting doulas to be present in the operating room while a cesarean section is being performed, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5991-A and A. 7606, is REPEALED.

§ 2. Section 2500-m of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision (c) to read as follows:

(c) The department shall require all maternal health care facilities to include and/or post on the maternal health care facility's webpage, lobby, and patient waiting areas information stating a birthing parent is allowed to have a doula present in the maternal health care facility for delivery and/or inpatient care post-delivery. 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 health care facilities with informational pamphlets stating a birthing parent shall be allowed to have a doula present in the maternal health care facility for delivery and/or inpatient care post-delivery. 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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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 same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to permitting doulas to be present in the operating room while a cesarean section is being performed, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5991-A and A. 7606; provided, however that section two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to permitting expecting and new mothers' access to their doulas, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5992-A and A. 6168-A, takes effect.