

STATE OF NEW YORK

5665--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Women's Issues -- recommitted to the Committee on Women's Issues in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a doula awareness and education program

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 207-b to read as follows:

3 § 207-b. Doula awareness and education program. 1. The department
4 shall conduct an ongoing public awareness and education program on
5 doulas and how beneficial they are to pregnancies.

6 2. The department shall produce and distribute educational materials
7 on the benefits of having a doula; a trained professional who provides
8 emotional, physical, and enlightening support during pregnancy, deliv-
9 ery, and birth. Such materials shall be made to available appropriate
10 health care providers for distribution to patients. On its website, the
11 department shall also publish information about the advantages of doulas
12 in reducing mortality rates for pregnant individuals and the increased
13 risk of this occurring for pregnant individuals who are primarily Black.

14 3. No provision of this section shall be deemed to prohibit the utili-
15 zation and distribution of educational materials relating thereto
16 produced by any public, private or governmental entity, in lieu of the
17 department's production of such materials.

18 4. The department shall periodically review available data on the
19 mortality rate of pregnant individuals in relation to doulas and update
20 the information provided in its educational materials and on its inter-
21 net website, as appropriate.

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

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1 5. The department shall report every three years, commencing April
2 first, two thousand thirty, to the governor, the temporary president of
3 the senate and the speaker of the assembly on the implementation of this
4 section and any recommendations for furthering the purposes of this
5 section.

6 § 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2027.