# STATE OF NEW YORK

758

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

**(Prefiled)**

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PERSAUD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to doula access during emergency situations

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

Section 1. Section 2500-m of the public health law, as amended by 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, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2500-m. Access to doulas. **(a)** 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. The maternal health care facility shall not deny such person access to such person's designated doula. 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.

**(b) Nothing in this section shall require a maternal health care facility to grant a doula access to a person or area of the facility during emergencies or when such access could compromise the safety of the patient or health care team.**

§ 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 expecting and new mothers' access to their doulas, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5992-A and A. 6168-A, takes effect.

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

LBD02834-01-5