

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1078

AN ACT CONCERNING DOULA CERTIFICATION AND
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR DOULA SERVICES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	45,000- 75,000	54,000- 90,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	17,500	3,500

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to certify and regulate doulas, is anticipated to result in a General Fund (GF) revenue gain of approximately \$17,500 in FY 20 and \$3,500 in FY 21. This GF revenue is generated from the initial certification of 100 doulas in FY 20 and 20 in FY 21. The fee to apply for certification is \$175, and certificates must be renewed every two years for a fee of \$100. It is anticipated that DPH can accommodate certification and regulation with existing expertise.

The bill also requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement for state-certified doulas who provide eligible services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The bill requires the total fees paid to a doula during a beneficiary's pregnancy be from \$900 to \$1,500. Additional costs could be incurred for post-partum services. While the average monthly caseload for pregnant

women enrolled in Medicaid is approximately 8,700 in FY 19, the number of women who actually access doula services will be subject to the availability of state-certified doulas. Based on DPH estimates for new certifications, DSS could incur costs of approximately \$45,000-\$75,000 in FY 20 and \$54,000 to \$90,000 in FY 21 associated with doula services provided during pregnancy. Additional costs for post-partum services could be incurred, which are dependent on the rates established.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of individuals certified as doulas, utilization under Medicaid and associated rates.