



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 395

LCO No. 2622



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOULA
ADVISORY COUNCIL AND DOULA CERTIFICATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Doula
2 Advisory Council that shall make recommendations to the
3 Commissioner of Public Health concerning the certification of doulas.
4 The council shall be within the Department of Public Health for
5 administrative purposes only.

6 (b) The Doula Advisory Council shall consist of the following
7 members:

8 (1) Six doulas of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds who practice
9 throughout the state, two appointed by the speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
11 Senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
12 Representatives and one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

13 (2) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
14 Representatives, who shall be a health care provider who works directly

15 with doulas;

16 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
17 a representative of a state-wide or national organization that advocates
18 for health equity;

19 (4) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
20 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, who shall be a chairperson of the
21 council; and

22 (5) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
23 designee.

24 (c) Any member of the Doula Advisory Council appointed under
25 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
26 member of the General Assembly.

27 (d) All initial appointments to the Doula Advisory Council shall be
28 made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section.
29 Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority, provided at
30 least three-fifths of the council's membership shall be comprised of
31 practicing doulas.

32 (e) The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the advisory
33 council, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective
34 date of this section. The members of the Doula Advisory Council shall
35 select a cochairperson of the council. The advisory council shall meet
36 not less than three times and members shall serve without
37 compensation.

38 (f) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,
39 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of
40 the Doula Advisory Council.

41 (g) The Doula Advisory Council shall: (1) Provide data on states that
42 provide Medicaid reimbursement for doula services and an analysis of
43 the effect of those services on health outcomes, (2) provide
44 recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health on educational

45 and training programs which may meet the requirements for preparing
46 doulas for certification, (3) coordinate the collection, analysis and
47 dissemination of data regarding doulas, and (4) consult with
48 governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing
49 recommendations to complement state and local efforts to enhance the
50 doula profession and increase opportunities for certification.

51 (h) Not later than January 1, 2021, the Doula Advisory Council shall
52 submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint
53 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
54 matters relating to human services and public health, in accordance with
55 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

56 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than June 1, 2021, the
57 Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a certification process for
58 doulas. In establishing the certification process the commissioner shall
59 incorporate recommendations from the Doula Advisory Council
60 established pursuant to section 1 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory council to make recommendations concerning the certification of doulas and a deadline for the Commissioner of Public Health to establish a certification process for doulas.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]