

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1608 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, KRAJEWSKI, ISAACSON, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, RABB, MAYES, KHAN, GUENST, PARKER, FIEDLER, HOHENSTEIN, O'MARA, OTTEN, BULLOCK, KIM, KINKEAD, CURRY, FLEMING, GREEN, BOYD, D. WILLIAMS, SHUSTERMAN, PIELLI, SALISBURY AND T. DAVIS, AUGUST 7, 2023

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 1, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 providing for medical assistance coverage for doula services.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
8 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
9 read:

10 Section 443.15. Medical Assistance Coverage for Doula
11 Services.--(a) Subject to Federal approval, doula services are
12 compensable under the medical assistance program for eligible
13 and enrolled medical assistance recipients during pregnancy,
14 labor and delivery and up to one year postpartum.

15 (b) The department shall establish a Doula Advisory Board to
16 advise the secretary regarding the following:

17 (1) Doula best practices.

1 (2) Doula participation in the medical assistance program.

2 (3) Racial and geographic disparities in the provision of
3 maternal health services.

4 (4) Equity and inclusion best practices.

5 (c) The Doula Advisory Board shall include the following:

6 (1) The secretary.

7 (2) A representative from the Department of State.

8 (3) A representative from the Office of Medical Assistance
9 Programs within the department.

10 (4) A representative from the Bureau of Family Health within
11 the Department of Health.

12 (5) A representative from the Office of Health Equity within
13 the Department of Health.

14 (6) A representative from a nationally recognized doula
15 organization.

16 (7) A doula practicing in this Commonwealth.

17 (8) A member of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee
18 established under the act of May 9, 2018 (P.L.118, No.24), known
19 as the Maternal Mortality Review Act.

20 (9) A member of a commission that supports doula practice in
21 Pennsylvania.

22 (10) As deemed appropriate by the department, any other
23 residents of this Commonwealth who represent the diverse
24 demographics of Pennsylvania.

25 (d) The department shall seek a State plan amendment or
26 Federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
27 Services, if needed, for provision of doula services under the
28 medical assistance program.

29 (e) As used in this section, the term "doula" shall mean a
30 professional trained to provide physical, emotional and

1 informational support to a ~~pregnant individual~~ MOTHER before, <--
2 during and after childbirth.

3 Section 2. If a necessary State plan amendment or Federal
4 waiver under section 443.15 of the act is approved by the
5 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Secretary of
6 Human Services shall transmit notice of the approval to the
7 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next
8 available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

10 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the addition
11 of section 443.15 of the act shall take effect 30 days
12 following publication of the notice under section 2 of this
13 act.

14 (2) The addition of section 443.15(b) and (c) of the act
15 shall take effect immediately.

16 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect
17 immediately.