

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 109 entitled “An act relating to Medicaid coverage for doula services”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1901m is added to read:

8 § 1901m. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES

9 (a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall provide
10 reimbursement to a qualified doula for providing childbirth education and
11 support services, including physical and emotional support, to an individual
12 covered by Medicaid during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum
13 period, regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy.

14 (b) As used in this section, “qualified doula” means a doula who is
15 registered with or certified or licensed by the Office of Professional
16 Regulation.

17 Sec. 2. MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR DOULA SERVICES;

18 LEGISLATIVE INTENT

19 It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Vermont
20 Health Access reimburse qualified doulas in amounts that are reasonable and

1 adequate for the services provided and that are consistent with the
2 reimbursement rates set by other states' Medicaid programs.

3 Sec. 3. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; DOULAS; SUNRISE
4 REVIEW

5 (a) The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with interested
6 stakeholders, shall undertake a review of doulas in accordance with 26 V.S.A.
7 chapter 57 to determine the appropriate form of regulation for the profession.
8 For purposes of this review, and in accordance with 26 V.S.A. § 3105(b), the
9 General Assembly finds that it is necessary for the State to regulate doulas.

10 (b) On or before January 8, 2025, the Office of Professional Regulation
11 shall report the results of the review required by subsection (a) of this section
12 to the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations and
13 Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on
14 Government Operations, including a recommendation regarding whether
15 doulas in Vermont would be regulated most appropriately through a
16 registration, certification, or licensure process, along with the Office's
17 proposals for legislative action to establish that process.

18 Sec. 4. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

19 The Department of Vermont Health Access shall seek a state plan
20 amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services if needed to

1 allow Vermont’s Medicaid program to provide coverage for doula services in
2 accordance with Sec. 1 of this act.

3 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 (a) Sec. 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2025 or, if a state plan amendment is
5 necessary, upon approval of the state plan amendment, whichever is later.

6 (b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE