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S.109

An act relating to Medicaid coverage for doula services

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; DOULAS; SUNRISE
REVIEW

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

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

1 Sec. 2. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES; COSTS;
2 REPORT

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

6 (b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop a proposed
7 methodology and determine the estimated costs if Vermont Medicaid were to
8 provide reimbursement to qualified doulas for providing childbirth education
9 and support services, including physical and emotional support, to individuals
10 covered by Medicaid during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the postpartum
11 period, regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy.

12 (c) In its fiscal year 2026 budget proposal, the Department shall provide:

13 (1) its proposed reimbursement methodology for and estimated costs of
14 providing Medicaid coverage for doula services;

15 (2) a recommendation for whether doula services should be covered by
16 Vermont Medicaid;

17 (3) if doula services are covered, ways to recognize the potentially
18 beneficial impacts of doula coverage on Medicaid spending over time; and

19 (4) information regarding whether a Medicaid state plan amendment
20 would be necessary in order for Vermont Medicaid to cover doula services.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.