

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1278

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 16, 2024

Committee: Health and Human Services

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public assistance; to amend section 68-901,
- 2 Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023; to provide for reimbursement of
- 3 doula and full spectrum doula services under the medical assistance
- 4 program; and to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023, is
2 amended to read:

3 68-901 Sections 68-901 to 68-9,104 and section 2 of this act shall
4 be known and may be cited as the Medical Assistance Act.

5 Sec. 2. (1) The Legislature finds that: (a) Doula and full spectrum
6 doula services have been proven to reduce the cost of birthing and
7 improve outcomes for mothers and infants; (b) one of the most effective
8 services to improve labor and delivery outcomes is the continuous
9 presence of support personnel such as a doula or full spectrum doula; and
10 (c) support from a doula or full spectrum doula is associated with lower
11 cesarean rates, as well as fewer obstetric interventions, fewer
12 complications, less pain medication, shorter labor hours, and higher
13 Apgar scores for infants.

14 (2) No later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Health and
15 Human Services shall reimburse a recipient of medical assistance for
16 doula or full spectrum doula services. Such reimbursement shall be paid
17 by state funds at rates determined by the department. The department
18 shall submit a state plan amendment, if necessary, to provide for
19 reimbursement of doula and full spectrum doula services.

20 (3) The department shall establish a work group of stakeholders and
21 experts to develop an implementation plan, including a reimbursement
22 rate, for reimbursement of doula and full spectrum doula services. Such
23 work group shall submit the implementation plan to the department no
24 later than October 1, 2025.

25 (4) For purposes of this section, (i) doula means a trained
26 companion who supports another individual through a significant health-
27 related experience and may also provide support to the individual's
28 partner, family, and friends. The doula's goal, and role, is to help the
29 individual feel safe and comfortable, complementing the role of
30 healthcare professionals who provide the individual's medical care and
31 (ii) a full spectrum doula is a trained companion who provides emotional,

1 physical, and informational support for individuals before, during, and
2 after labor and birth. This includes, but is not limited to, attending
3 prenatal visits, support during delivery, and providing resources during
4 the postpartum period. The role of the full spectrum doula is to ensure
5 the pregnant person has power in the birth journey. The full spectrum
6 doula shall have appropriate training or certification.

7 Sec. 3. Original section 68-901, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023,
8 is repealed.