

AMENDMENTS TO LB701

Introduced by Health and Human Services.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           **Section 1.** Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
4 2024, is amended to read:

5           68-901 Sections 68-901 to 68-9,111 and section 2 of this act shall  
6 be known and may be cited as the Medical Assistance Act.

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

15           (2) No later than January 1, 2029, the department shall reimburse a  
16 provider for doula services. Such reimbursement shall be paid by state  
17 funds at rates determined by the department. The department shall submit  
18 a state plan amendment, if necessary, to provide for reimbursement of  
19 doula services.

20           (3)(a) The department shall establish a work group of stakeholders  
21 and experts to develop an implementation plan, including appropriate  
22 reimbursement rates and appropriate training, certification, or  
23 experience requirements for doula services. The work group shall submit  
24 the implementation plan to the department no later than January 1, 2027.

25           (b) The work group shall be comprised of the following: (i) Thirty  
26 percent of the members shall represent the doula profession; (ii) thirty  
27 percent of the members shall represent communities of color

1 disproportionately impacted by poor birth outcomes; (iii) ten percent of  
2 the members shall represent rural Nebraska; and (iv) ten percent of the  
3 members shall have utilized doula services.

4 (c) Additional members of the work group shall include, but not be  
5 limited to: (i) Medical providers; (ii) public health professionals;  
6 (iii) representatives of tribal organizations; and (iv) community  
7 advocates.

8 (4)(a) For purposes of this section, doula means a trained  
9 professional who provides emotional, physical, and informational support  
10 for individuals before, during, and after labor and birth. This includes,  
11 but is not limited to, attending prenatal visits, support during  
12 delivery, and providing resources during the postpartum period.

13 (b) A doula shall have appropriate training, certification, or  
14 experience, as determined by the implementation plan developed by the  
15 work group described in subdivision (3)(a) of this section.

16 (c) A doula shall not perform clinical or medical tasks and shall  
17 not diagnose or treat in any modality.

18 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to fund the state portion of  
19 reimbursement for doula services from the vital statistics subfund of the  
20 Health and Human Services Cash Fund.

21 **Sec. 3.** Original section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
22 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.