

AMENDMENTS TO LB958

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM2766)

Introduced by Spivey, 13.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 **Sec. 4.** (1) The Legislature finds that: (a) Doula services have
3 been proven to reduce the cost of birthing and improve outcomes for
4 mothers and infants; (b) one of the most effective services to improve
5 labor and delivery outcomes is the continuous presence of support
6 personnel such as a doula; and (c) support from a doula is associated
7 with lower cesarean rates, as well as fewer obstetric interventions,
8 fewer complications, less pain medication, shorter labor hours, and
9 higher Apgar scores for infants.

10 (2) No later than January 1, 2029, the department shall reimburse a
11 provider for doula services. Such reimbursement shall be paid by state
12 funds at rates determined by the department. The department shall submit
13 a state plan amendment, if necessary, to provide for reimbursement of
14 doula services.

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

20 (b) The work group shall be comprised of the following: (i) Thirty
21 percent of the members shall represent the doula profession; (ii) thirty
22 percent of the members shall represent communities of color
23 disproportionately impacted by poor birth outcomes; (iii) ten percent of
24 the members shall represent rural Nebraska; and (iv) ten percent of the
25 members shall have utilized doula services.

26 (c) Additional members of the work group shall include, but not be

1 limited to: (i) Medical providers; (ii) public health professionals;
2 (iii) representatives of tribal organizations; and (iv) community
3 advocates.

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

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

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

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

17 **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act becomes operative three calendar
18 months after the adjournment of this legislative session. The other
19 sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

20 2. On page 1, line 5, strike "section 2" and insert "sections 2 and
21 4".

22 3. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.