

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB701

Hearing Date: Friday February 28, 2025
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Spivey
One Liner: Provide for reimbursement of doula services by the Department of Health and Human Services

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Hardin, Ballard, Fredrickson, Hansen, Meyer, G.
Nay:	1	Senator Riepe
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Quick

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Ashlei Spivey
Shanika King
Toya Broadway
Sahi Zeineddine
Tesha Williams
Kayla Kohl
Joyce Dykema
Becky Sherman
JoAnna LeFlore-Ejike
LeTeya Broadway
Joy Kathurima

Representing:

Opening Presenter
self
self
CHI Health
self
self
DONA International
self
self
self
ACLU Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB701 amends the Medical Assistance Act. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to reimburse providers for doula services under the Medicaid program no later than January 1, 2027, funded by state dollars at rates to be determined by DHHS. The bill provides legislative findings that doula services reduce birthing costs and improve outcomes for mothers and infants, including lower cesarean rates, fewer complications, less pain medication, shorter labor, and higher infant Apgar scores. To implement the program, DHHS must convene a stakeholder work group by October 1, 2026, to develop an implementation plan covering reimbursement rates and



training and certification requirements. The work group must include representatives from the doula profession (30%), communities of color disproportionately impacted by poor birth outcomes (30%), rural Nebraska (10%), and individuals who have used doula services (10%), along with medical providers, public health professionals, tribal organizations, and community advocates. A doula is defined as a trained professional providing emotional, physical, and informational support before, during, and after labor and birth, including prenatal visits, delivery support, and postpartum resources. Doulas shall not perform clinical or medical tasks or diagnose or treat patients.

Explanation of amendments:

AM3067 is a white copy amendment that requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to reimburse providers for doula services under the Medicaid program no later than January 1, 2029, funded by state dollars at rates to be determined by DHHS. The amendment provides legislative findings that doula services reduce birthing costs and improve outcomes for mothers and infants, including lower cesarean rates, fewer complications, less pain medication, shorter labor, and higher infant Apgar scores. To implement the program, DHHS must convene a stakeholder work group by January 1, 2027, to develop an implementation plan covering reimbursement rates and training and certification requirements. The work group must include representatives from the doula profession (30%), communities of color disproportionately impacted by poor birth outcomes (30%), rural Nebraska (10%), and individuals who have used doula services (10%), along with medical providers, public health professionals, tribal organizations, and community advocates. A doula is defined as a trained professional providing emotional, physical, and informational support before, during, and after labor and birth, including prenatal visits, delivery support, and postpartum resources. Doulas shall not perform clinical or medical tasks or diagnose or treat patients.

The amendment states legislative intent to fund the state reimbursement portion for doula services from the vital statistics subfund of the Health and Human Services Cash Fund.

Brian Hardin, Chairperson

