

House Bill 727

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Beverly of the 143rd, Frye of the 118th, Mitchell of the 106th, Lim of the 99th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for Medicaid coverage for doula
3 services provided to an expectant mother; to provide for a definition; to provide that doulas
4 are considered providers of medical assistance; to require the Department of Community
5 Health to submit a state plan amendment for coverage of antepartum, intrapartum, and
6 postpartum services; to provide for minimum reimbursement rates; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 medical assistance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "49-4-159.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'doula' means a trained professional who
14 provides nonmedical health-supporting interventions including continuous physical,
15 emotional, and informational support to a mother before, during, and shortly after
16 childbirth.

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17 (b) A recipient of medical assistance who is an expectant mother shall be authorized to
18 receive services by a doula before, during, and for the duration of Medicaid coverage for
19 postpartum care.

20 (c) For purposes of this article, a doula shall be considered a provider of medical
21 assistance.

22 (d) The department shall submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to the United States
23 Department of Health and Human Services to provide for the payment of medical
24 assistance for antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum services provided to an expectant
25 mother by a doula, including services for labor and delivery support. Such state plan
26 amendment shall include minimum reimbursement rates of \$500.00 for intrapartum
27 services only, \$800.00 for antepartum and intrapartum services, and \$1,000.00 for
28 antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum services and a provision for an annual
29 reassessment of such minimum reimbursement rates in light of cost-of-living increases."

30

SECTION 2.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.