

SENATE BILL NO. 1238

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASHINGTON.

3575S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 376, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to health insurance coverage of maternity services.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 376, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 376.1755 and 376.1758, to read as follows:

376.1755. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Certified nurse midwife", the same meaning given to the term in section 335.016;

(2) "Health benefit plan", the same meaning given to the term in section 376.1350;

(3) "Health carrier", the same meaning given to the term in section 376.1350;

(4) "Midwife", a certified nurse midwife or professional midwife;

(5) "Professional midwife", any midwife allowed to practice in this state in accordance with the provisions of section 376.1753.

2. Each health carrier or health benefit plan that offers or issues health benefit plans that are delivered, issued for delivery, continued, or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2025, and that provide coverage for

18 maternity services shall provide coverage for health care
19 services provided by a midwife.

20 3. The coverage provided for in this section may be
21 subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.
22 A health benefit plan subject to the provisions of
23 subsection 2 of this section shall not differentiate between
24 services performed by a midwife within the midwife's lawful
25 scope of practice and services performed by a physician with
26 respect to copayments, annual deductible amounts, or
27 coinsurance percentages.

28 4. Whenever any health benefit plan subject to the
29 provisions of subsection 2 of this section provides for
30 reimbursement of any services that are within the lawful
31 scope of practice of certified nurse midwives and
32 professional midwives, the insured or other person entitled
33 to benefits under the health benefit plan shall be entitled
34 to reimbursement for the services, whether the services are
35 performed by a physician or a midwife.

36 5. Terminology in any health benefit plan subject to
37 the provisions of subsection 2 of this section that is
38 deemed discriminatory against certified nurse midwives,
39 professional midwives, or midwifery or that inhibits
40 reimbursement for midwifery services at the in-network rate
41 is void and unenforceable.

42 6. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a
43 supplemental insurance policy, including a life care
44 contract, accident-only policy, specified disease policy,
45 hospital policy providing a fixed daily benefit only,
46 Medicare supplement policy, long-term care policy, short-
47 term major medical policy of six months or less duration, or
48 any other supplemental policy as determined by the director
49 of the department of commerce and insurance.

376.1758. 1. For purposes of this section, the term
2 "doula" means an individual who has been trained to provide
3 physical, emotional, and educational support, but not
4 medical or midwifery care, to pregnant and birthing women
5 and their families before, during, and after childbirth.

6 2. The department of health and senior services shall
7 review and approve doula registration to allow for health
8 insurance reimbursement of doula services.

9 3. The department of health and senior services shall:

10 (1) Create the criteria for the doula registration
11 application;

12 (2) Review applications for doulas to register to
13 receive health insurance reimbursement in this state;

14 (3) Approve applications to designate registered doula
15 status;

16 (4) Notify applicants of approval or denial of doula
17 registration status; and

18 (5) Maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved
19 for health insurance reimbursement in this state.

20 4. Nothing in this section prohibits any person from
21 practicing as a doula in this state regardless of whether
22 the person is registered in accordance with the provisions
23 of this section.

24 5. The department of health and senior services shall
25 promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the
26 administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a
27 rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
28 created under the authority delegated in this section shall
29 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
30 all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,
31 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
32 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the

33 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay
34 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
35 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
36 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after
37 August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.

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