

HOUSE BILL 576

By Hemmer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 68 and Title 71, relative to doula services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Doula care services" means a service that provides continuous emotional and physical support throughout labor and birth, and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods; and

(2) "Healthcare provider" means a healthcare professional who is licensed, registered, certified, or permitted pursuant to title 63 and regulated under the authority of either the department of health or an agency, board, council, or committee attached to the department of health.

(b) The bureau of TennCare shall develop and implement a pilot program during the fiscal year 2024-2025 to provide:

(1) Doula care services to a woman eligible under subsection (c) for up to twelve (12) months postpartum, if determined by the woman's healthcare provider to be medically appropriate; and

(2) Payment to providers who provide doula care services.

(c) A woman is eligible to receive doula care services pursuant to the pilot program established by this section, if:

(1) The woman is pregnant;

- (2) The woman is a TennCare recipient;
- (3) The woman's healthcare provider determines that doula care services are medically appropriate; and
- (4) The woman's healthcare provider determines:
  - (A) The woman has an increased likelihood of experiencing a higher-risk pregnancy due to the presence of:
    - (i) Existing health conditions such as high blood pressure, polycystic ovary syndrome, diabetes, kidney disease, autoimmune disease, thyroid disease, obesity, HIV/AIDS, or Zika infection;
    - (ii) Age factors, including teenage pregnancy or pregnancy after thirty-five (35) years of age;
    - (iii) Lifestyle factors, such as alcohol, tobacco, or drug use; or
    - (iv) Conditions of pregnancy, including multiple gestation, gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, eclampsia, previous preterm births, or birth defects or genetic conditions in the fetus; or
  - (B) The woman lives in a county without a licensed obstetrician/gynecologist who participates in TennCare, or the woman lacks reliable transportation to access the healthcare provider.
- (d) The director is authorized to seek a federal waiver that the director determines is necessary to implement the pilot program described in this section.
- (e) The pilot program created by this section terminates July 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.