

HOUSE BILL 738

By Love

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 8; Title 56; Title 63 and Title 71, relative to  
doulas.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-107(a), is amended by  
adding the following as a new subdivision:

(28)

(A) Doula services performed by a person who has received a  
certification to perform doula services from the department as described in  
subdivision (a)(28)(B);

(B) The department shall establish a process by which the department  
certifies a person who has:

(i) Received a certification to perform doula services from the  
Childbirth Education Association, the Doulas of North America (DONA),  
the Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE),  
Birthworks International, the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional  
Association (CAPPA), Childbirth International, the International Center for  
Traditional Childbearing, or Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.; or

(ii) Demonstrated:

(a) An understanding of basic anatomy and physiology as  
related to pregnancy, the childbearing process, breastfeeding or  
chestfeeding, and the postpartum period;

(b) The capacity to employ different strategies for providing emotional support, education, and resources during the perinatal period;

(c) Knowledge of and the ability to assist families with utilizing a wide variety of nonclinical labor coping and physical comfort strategies;

(d) An awareness of strategies to foster effective communication between clients, their families, support services, and healthcare providers; and

(e) Knowledge of community-based, publicly funded and federally funded, and clinical resources available to the client for any need outside the doula's scope of practice;

(C) As used in this subdivision (a)(28), "doula services" means a service that provides continuous emotional and physical support throughout labor and birth, and intermittently during the prenatal and postpartum periods.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-107(b), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (b)(1) and adding the following as subdivision (b)(2):

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1), and with respect to recipients determined to be "medically needy," doula services as described in subdivision (a)(28) must be provided.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.