

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5182

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### As Passed House:

April 10, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to programs and services for incarcerated parents at the department of corrections.

**Brief Description:** Concerning programs and services for incarcerated parents at the department of corrections.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Nobles, Frame, Bateman, Hasegawa, Saldaña, Trudeau and Wilson, C.).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Community Safety: 3/24/25, 3/31/25 [DP].

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/10/25, 92-3.

### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Removes statutory language specifying that nothing requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish or provide funding for midwifery or doula services to incarcerated individuals, and instead specifies that nothing prevents the DOC from contracting with a nonprofit organization or partnering with volunteers to deliver such services.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Goodman, Chair; Simmons, Vice Chair; Graham, Ranking Minority Member; Griffey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Burnett, Davis, Farivar, Fosse and Obras.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Staff:** Corey Patton (786-7388).

**Background:**

Under state law, the Department of Corrections (DOC) must make reasonable accommodations for the provision of available midwifery or doula services to incarcerated individuals who are pregnant or who have given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing such services must be granted appropriate facility access, be allowed to attend and provide assistance during labor and childbirth where feasible, and have access to relevant health care information if disclosure is authorized. Nothing in these provisions requires the DOC to establish or provide funding for such services, or prevents the DOC from adopting policy guidelines for the delivery of such services.

"Midwifery services" means medical aid rendered by a licensed midwife to a woman during prenatal, intrapartum, or postpartum stages or to a woman's newborn up to two weeks of age. "Doula services" means services provided by a trained doula and designed to provide physical, emotional, or informational support to a pregnant woman before, during, and after delivery of a child. Doula services may include, but are not limited to:

- support and assistance during labor and childbirth;
- prenatal and postpartum education;
- breastfeeding assistance;
- parenting education; and
- support in the event that a woman has been or will become separated from her child.

**Summary of Bill:**

Statutory language specifying that nothing requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish or provide funding for midwifery or doula services to incarcerated individuals is removed. Statutory language is added to specify that nothing in the provisions of state law related to requiring the DOC to make reasonable accommodations for midwifery or doula services prevents the DOC from contracting with a nonprofit organization or partnering with volunteers to deliver such services.

Related references to "inmates" are replaced with "incarcerated individuals" and references to an incarcerated individual's gender are replaced with gender neutral terms.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

(Other) This bill will enable the Department of Corrections to contract with nonprofit providers and volunteers for midwifery and doula services. Access to these services will increase emotional and psychological support, enhance postpartum recovery, and improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

**Persons Testifying:** David Flynn, Department of Corrections.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.