

---

HOUSE BILL 2016

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative DeBolt

1 AN ACT Relating to access to midwifery and doula services for  
2 incarcerated women; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; and  
3 adding a new section to chapter 70.48 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department must make reasonable accommodations for the  
8 provision of available doula services to inmates who are pregnant or  
9 who have given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing doula  
10 services must be granted appropriate facility access, must be allowed  
11 to attend and provide assistance during labor and childbirth where  
12 feasible, and must have access to the inmate's relevant health care  
13 information, as defined in RCW 70.02.010, if the inmate authorizes  
14 disclosure.

15 (2) For purposes of this section, "doula services" are services  
16 provided by a trained doula and designed to provide physical,  
17 emotional, or informational support to a pregnant woman before,  
18 during, and after delivery of a child. Doula services may include,  
19 but are not limited to: Support and assistance during labor and  
20 childbirth; prenatal and postpartum education; breastfeeding

1 assistance; parenting education; and support in the event that a  
2 woman has been or will become separated from her child.

3 (3) Nothing in this section requires the department to establish  
4 or provide funding for doula services, or prevents the department  
5 from adopting policy guidelines for the delivery of doula services to  
6 inmates.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.48  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Jails must make reasonable accommodations for the provision  
10 of available doula services to inmates who are pregnant or who have  
11 given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing doula services  
12 must be granted appropriate facility access, must be allowed to  
13 attend and provide assistance during labor and childbirth where  
14 feasible, and must have access to the inmate's relevant health care  
15 information, as defined in RCW 70.02.010, if the inmate authorizes  
16 disclosure.

17 (2) For purposes of this section, "doula services" are services  
18 provided by a trained doula and designed to provide physical,  
19 emotional, or informational support to a pregnant woman before,  
20 during, and after delivery of a child. Doula services may include,  
21 but are not limited to: Support and assistance during labor and  
22 childbirth; prenatal and postpartum education; breastfeeding  
23 assistance; parenting education; and support in the event that a  
24 woman has been or will become separated from her child.

25 (3) Nothing in this section requires governing units to establish  
26 or provide funding for doula services, or prevents the adoption of  
27 policy guidelines for the delivery of doula services to inmates.

--- END ---