
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2016

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives DeBolt, Hayes, Stanford, Doglio, and Muri)

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

15 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
16 apply:

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

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

3 (b) "Midwifery services" means medical aid rendered by a midwife
4 to a woman during prenatal, intrapartum, or postpartum stages or to a
5 woman's newborn up to two weeks of age.

6 (c) "Midwife" means a midwife licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW or
7 an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter
8 18.79 RCW.

9 (3) Nothing in this section requires the department to establish
10 or provide funding for midwifery or doula services, or prevents the
11 department from adopting policy guidelines for the delivery of
12 midwifery or doula services to inmates. Services provided under this
13 section may not supplant health care services routinely provided to
14 the inmate.

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

17 (1) Jails must make reasonable accommodations for the provision
18 of available midwifery or doula services to inmates who are pregnant
19 or who have given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing
20 midwifery or doula services must be granted appropriate facility
21 access, must be allowed to attend and provide assistance during labor
22 and childbirth where feasible, and must have access to the inmate's
23 relevant health care information, as defined in RCW 70.02.010, if the
24 inmate authorizes disclosure.

25 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
26 apply:

27 (a) "Doula services" are services provided by a trained doula and
28 designed to provide physical, emotional, or informational support to
29 a pregnant woman before, during, and after delivery of a child. Doula
30 services may include, but are not limited to: Support and assistance
31 during labor and childbirth; prenatal and postpartum education;
32 breastfeeding assistance; parenting education; and support in the
33 event that a woman has been or will become separated from her child.

34 (b) "Midwifery services" means medical aid rendered by a midwife
35 to a woman during prenatal, intrapartum, or postpartum stages or to a
36 woman's newborn up to two weeks of age.

37 (c) "Midwife" means a midwife licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW or
38 an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter
39 18.79 RCW.

1 (3) Nothing in this section requires governing units to establish
2 or provide funding for midwifery or doula services, or prevents the
3 adoption of policy guidelines for the delivery of midwifery or doula
4 services to inmates. Services provided under this section may not
5 supplant health care services routinely provided to the inmate.

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