

By: Walle

H.B. No. 415

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to doula services, including Medicaid coverage of doula
3 services.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Health and Safety
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 32.0212 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 32.0212. DOULA SERVICES AND OPTIONAL DOULA
8 CERTIFICATION. (a) In this section, "doula services" means
9 childbirth education and support services, including emotional and
10 physical support provided during pregnancy, labor, birth, and the
11 postpartum period or provided intermittently during pregnancy and
12 the postpartum period.

13 (a-1) The department, in consultation with the Texas
14 Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and other
15 relevant entities, shall study methods for using doula services to
16 improve birth outcomes of women who face a disproportionately
17 greater risk of poor birth outcomes, including the feasibility of
18 providing Medicaid coverage for doula services. The department and
19 the review committee shall include the findings of the study and
20 legislative recommendations in the joint biennial report submitted
21 as required under Section 34.015 not later than September 1, 2022.
22 This subsection expires September 1, 2025.

23 (b) The department and the commission shall post on their
24 respective Internet websites informational resources regarding

1 doula services, including a description of doula services and the
2 benefits of using doula services.

3 (c) The department, in consultation with other relevant
4 entities, shall develop a statewide, uniform curriculum for an
5 optional doula certification.

6 SECTION 2. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended
7 by adding Subsections (nn) and (nn-1) to read as follows:

8 (nn) The commission may provide medical assistance
9 reimbursement for doula services, as defined by Section 32.0212,
10 Health and Safety Code. If the commission provides medical
11 assistance reimbursement for doula services, the executive
12 commissioner by rule shall determine the doula services to be
13 covered and any doula certification requirements.

14 (nn-1) The commission shall determine whether to provide
15 medical assistance reimbursement for doula services under
16 Subsection (nn) based on the findings and recommendations provided
17 in the report required by Section 32.0212(a-1), Health and Safety
18 Code. This subsection expires September 1, 2025.

19 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
20 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
21 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
22 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
23 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
24 waiver or authorization is granted.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.