87R1929 JG-D

By:  Walle H.B. No. 415

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

(b)  The department and the commission shall post on their respective Internet websites informational resources regarding doula services, including a description of doula services and the benefits of using doula services.

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

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

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

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

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

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