

By: Shofner

H.B. No. 5583

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Medicaid coverage and reimbursement of doula services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.02481 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.02481. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DOULA SERVICES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Doula" means a nonmedical birthing professional who provides doula services.

(2) "Doula services" means nonmedical childbirth education, coaching, and support services, including emotional and physical support provided during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, or provided intermittently during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

(b) In addition to reimbursement a doula may receive under Section 32.024(qq) for case management services, the commission shall ensure that medical assistance reimbursement is provided for doula services provided by a doula to a medical assistance recipient.

SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act but not later than October 1, 2026, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall seek from the appropriate federal agency an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to implement Section 32.02481, Human Resources Code,

1 as added by this Act.

2 (b) In developing the amendment to the state Medicaid plan  
3 described by Subsection (a) of this section, the executive  
4 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
5 consult with individuals who represent interested stakeholders,  
6 including medical assistance recipients, doulas, physicians,  
7 nurses, and health care facilities in the state.

8 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) of this section, if  
9 before implementing any provision of this Act the Health and Human  
10 Services Commission or other state agency determines that a waiver  
11 from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that  
12 provision, the agency shall request the waiver and may delay  
13 implementing that provision until the waiver is granted.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.