

SENATE MEMBERS

Robert Stivers
President, LRC Co-Chair
David Givens
President Pro Tempore
Max Wise
Majority Floor Leader
Gerald A. Neal
Minority Floor Leader
Robby Mills
Majority Caucus Chair
Reginald Thomas
Minority Caucus Chair
Mike Wilson
Majority Whip
David Yates
Minority Whip



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

State Capitol 700 Capital Avenue Frankfort KY 40601

502-564-8100

Capitol Fax 502-564-2922

Annex Fax 502-564-6543

legislature.ky.gov

Jay D. Hartz
Director

HOUSE MEMBERS

David W. Osborne
Speaker, LRC Co-Chair
David Meade
Speaker Pro Tempore
Steven Rudy
Majority Floor Leader
Pamela Stevenson
Minority Floor Leader
Suzanne Miles
Majority Caucus Chair
Al Gentry
Minority Caucus Chair
Jason Nemes
Majority Whip
Lindsey Burke
Minority Whip

ESTIMATED IMPACT MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Lisa Willner

FROM: Miriam Fordham, Ph.D.
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Office of Budget Review

Sara Rome
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Office of Budget Review

SUBJECT: Estimated Impact of BR72
Document Identification Number 1715

DATE: December 9, 2025

The proposed legislation requires the Department for Medicaid Services to provide coverage for doula services and establishes a Doula Advisory Council to be administered by the Department for Public Health. The fiscal analysis estimates the impact related to the expenditures for the Department for Medicaid Services and the Department for Public Health.

Department for Medicaid Services

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS, Cabinet) did not respond to a request for a fiscal estimate for BR 72 as of the date of this memorandum. However, data was available from a doula study conducted by the Cabinet as required under 2024 Regular Session (RS) Senate Bill 74 and an estimate provided for similar legislation, 2025 RS House Bill (HB) 553, that staff determined was applicable.

The estimates contained in this memo are based on staff's current analysis of the available data and do not represent a fiscal note. To the extent that new information becomes available, or the language in the bill differs from the language analyzed in this memo, fiscal impacts may change.

Data Sources: LRC Staff; CHFS study

Approved By: JMR

The CHFS study of doula services notes that expenditures for doula services would be determined by the number of births covered under the Kentucky Medicaid program, the percentage of Medicaid covered births utilizing a doula, the number and type of doula visits per pregnancy, and the reimbursement rates for doula services. The study's review of other state Medicaid programs providing coverage for doula services indicated that the utilization rate was relatively low. Extrapolating the data from other states on doula service utilization, the study estimated that a one percent utilization rate in Kentucky's Medicaid program would equate to approximately 275 births per year. Based on the projected utilization rate, the study estimated that expenditures to provide doula services were unlikely to exceed \$1 million per year including state and federal funding.

HB 553 from the 2024 Session required Medicaid coverage for doula services. CHFS estimated that the Department for Medicaid Services would incur additional costs under the provisions of the legislation. Total expenditures were estimated to range from \$630,000 to \$1,050,000 with \$189,000 to \$315,000 coming from General Fund and \$441,000 to \$735,000 coming from Federal Funds.

Department for Public Health

BR 72 establishes a 20-member Doula Advisory Council to be administered by the Department for Public Health (DPH) and requires reimbursement of expenses including child care be provided to the 16 non-state employee members of the advisory council to attend quarterly meetings. Staff estimates expenses of up to \$100 per non-state employee per council meeting which is approximately \$1,600 per quarter or \$6,400 annually.

Taking into account the costs related to Medicaid coverage of doula services and administration of the advisory council, total expenditures are estimated to range from \$636,400 to \$1,056,400, \$195,400 to \$321,400 in General Fund and \$441,000 to \$735,000 in Federal Funds.

The estimates contained in this memo are based on staff's current analysis of the available data and do not represent a fiscal note. To the extent that new information becomes available, or the language in the bill differs from the language analyzed in this memo, fiscal impacts may change.

Data Sources: LRC Staff; CHFS study

Approved By: JMR