

1 AN ACT relating to maternal health.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) As used in this section, "qualified doula" means a birth companion who provides*
6 *personal, nonmedical support to women and families throughout a woman's*
7 *pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum experience and who meets the*
8 *qualifications set forth by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by*
9 *administrative regulations.*

10 *(2) A qualified doula's scope of practice includes the following:*

11 *(a) Provides prenatal counseling and assists the woman in preparing for and*
12 *carrying out her plans for birth;*

13 *(b) Provides evidence-based information on general health practices pertaining*
14 *to pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, newborn health, and family*
15 *dynamics;*

16 *(c) Has a general understanding of complications that can arise during*
17 *pregnancy, labor, and delivery;*

18 *(d) Provides emotional support, physical comfort measures, and helps the*
19 *woman get the information she needs to make informed decisions*
20 *pertaining to childbirth and postpartum;*

21 *(e) Provides support for the whole birth team, including a woman's partner and*
22 *family members and hospital staff;*

23 *(f) Provides evidence-based information on infant feeding;*

24 *(g) Provides general breastfeeding guidance and resources;*

25 *(h) Provides infant soothing and coping skills for the new parents;*

26 *(i) Provides postpartum support and honors cultural and family traditions; and*

27 *(j) Facilitates and ensures access to resources that can improve birth-related*

1 outcomes, including transportation, housing, substance abuse, the Special
2 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the
3 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and intimate partner violence
4 resources.

5 (3) The provisions of KRS 205.560 notwithstanding, the cabinet and any regional
6 managed care partnership or other entity under contract with the cabinet for the
7 administration or provision of the Medicaid program shall provide Medicaid
8 reimbursement for qualified doula services as defined in subsection (1) of this
9 section.

10 (4) The cabinet shall establish reimbursement rates for qualified doula services.

11 (5) The cabinet and any regional managed care partnership or other entity under
12 contract with the cabinet for the administration or provision of the Medicaid
13 program shall study the impact of this section on the health care delivery system
14 in Kentucky and shall, upon implementation, issue an annual report to the
15 Legislative Research Commission due on November 1, 2022 and every November
16 first thereafter. This report shall include an analysis of:

17 (a) The impact of this section on:

18 1. The maternal mortality rate; and

19 2. The infant mortality rate; and

20 (b) The economic impact of this section on the Medicaid budget.

21 (6) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the
22 qualifications for becoming a qualified doula by January 1, 2022.

23 (7) The cabinet shall not limit the number of certification organizations by which
24 doulas may be trained.