

**By** Senator Osgood

32-01247-26

20261456

24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26           Section 1. Section 445.0075, Florida Statutes, is created  
27 to read:

## 445.0075 Doula Workforce Development Support Program.-

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

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30                   (a) The Legislature finds that:

31                   1. This state continues to experience persistent maternal  
32                   morbidity and mortality disparities that disproportionately  
33                   affect Black, Brown, rural, and low-income communities.

34                   2. Doulas have been shown to improve maternal and infant  
35                   health outcomes, reduce preventable complications, increase  
36                   prenatal care engagement, and strengthen postpartum recovery.

37                   3. Existing doula training organizations, community-based  
38                   doula programs, nonprofit entities, and private educational  
39                   institutions serve a critical role in building a maternal health  
40                   workforce but are under-resourced.

41                   4. Supporting these entities through the state's workforce  
42                   development infrastructure is essential to meeting regional  
43                   maternal health needs, especially in urban high-disparity  
44                   counties, rural maternity-care deserts, and regions experiencing  
45                   hospital closures or obstetric service reductions.

46                   (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to strengthen the  
47                   state's doula workforce by supporting the organizations that  
48                   train, mentor, and deploy doulas, and to expand economic and  
49                   small-business opportunities for community-based birth workers  
50                   through the Department of Commerce.

51                   (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

52                   (a) "Department" means the Department of Commerce.

53                   (b) "Doula" means a nonmedical birth support professional  
54                   trained to give physical and emotional support during  
55                   childbirth.

56                   (c) "Doula training entity" means a nonprofit organization,  
57                   community-based program, training collective, academic  
58                   institution, or private educational provider that conducts doula

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59 training, mentoring, continuing education, or workforce  
60 placement activities.

61 (d) "Doula workforce support services" means instructor  
62 compensation, curriculum development, program expansion,  
63 administrative support, business development training for  
64 doulas, mentoring, apprenticeship structures, evaluation and  
65 data activities, and related capacity-building functions.

66 (e) "High-need region" means a county or region identified  
67 by the department as having elevated maternal morbidity rates,  
68 limited numbers of maternity care providers, or insufficient  
69 doula availability.

70 (3) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—

71 (a) The Doula Workforce Development Support Program is  
72 established within the department to provide grants and  
73 technical assistance to eligible doula training entities for the  
74 purpose of expanding the state's doula workforce.

75 (b) The program shall prioritize support for entities  
76 serving high-need regions, including:

- 77 1. Urban counties with high maternal morbidity disparities.
- 78 2. Rural areas with limited or no obstetric providers or  
maternity wards.
- 80 3. Communities affected by recent hospital closures or  
reductions in maternity services.

82 (4) GRANTS; ELIGIBILITY; USE OF FUNDS.—

83 (a) The department may award competitive or formula-based  
84 grants to eligible doula training entities to support doula  
85 workforce development.

86 (b) Grant funds may be used for any of the following:

- 87 1. Training, mentoring, or apprenticeship program

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88 expansion.89 2. Instructor compensation and curriculum modernization.90 3. Recruitment and support of trainees from high-need  
91 regions.92 4. Program administration, evaluation, and outreach.93 5. Business development training for doulas, including  
94 assistance with incorporation, insurance, marketing, and  
95 entrepreneurship.96 6. Stipends or workforce support for newly trained doulas,  
97 administered through the eligible entity.98 7. Partnership development with hospitals, Medicaid managed  
99 care plans, clinics, community health workers, Healthy Start  
100 coalitions, or other maternal health service providers.101 (c) The department may not use funds to directly recruit,  
102 hire, or employ doulas as state employees or contractors  
103 providing clinical services.104 (5) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—105 (a) The department shall establish by rule application  
106 procedures, grant criteria, allowable costs, reporting  
107 requirements, and monitoring processes.108 (b) In developing grant criteria, the department shall  
109 consider all of the following:110 1. The demonstrated capacity of the entity to train or  
111 mentor doulas.112 2. The geographic areas served and the documented need for  
113 doula workforce expansion.114 3. The entity's experience serving culturally diverse and  
115 high-disparity populations.116 4. Partnerships with local workforce development boards or

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117 educational institutions.

118 5. Plans for sustainability and long-term workforce  
119 placement.

120 (6) REPORTING.—

121 (a) By December 1 of each year, the department shall submit  
122 a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
123 Speaker of the House of Representatives summarizing all of the  
124 following:

125 1. Grant recipients and award amounts.

126 2. The number of doulas trained, mentored, or supported by  
127 funded entities.

128 3. The geographic distribution of program activities.

129 4. Workforce outcomes, including business development  
130 successes and job placements.

131 5. Recommendations for program improvements.

132 (b) The department may require grant recipients to submit  
133 data necessary to compile the report.

134 (7) RULES.—The department may adopt rules necessary to  
135 implement this section.

136 Section 2. (1) For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the  
137 nonrecurring sum of \$7.5 million from the General Revenue Fund  
138 is appropriated to the Department of Commerce to implement s.  
139 445.0075, Florida Statutes, relating to the Doula Workforce  
140 Development Support Program.

141 (2) From the funds appropriated in subsection (1):

142 (a) Up to \$500,000 may be used by the department for  
143 administrative expenses, program management, technical  
144 assistance to grantees, and data collection and evaluation  
145 activities necessary to carry out the program.

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146        (b) The remaining funds shall be placed in a Grants and  
147        Aids - Doula Workforce Development Support Program category and  
148        distributed as competitive or formula-based grants to eligible  
149        doula training entities in accordance with s. 445.0075, Florida  
150        Statutes, with priority given to entities serving high-need  
151        regions as defined in that section.

152        (3) Funds appropriated in this section which are not  
153        encumbered by June 30, 2027, shall revert to the General Revenue  
154        Fund.

155        Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.