



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

House

•  
•  
•  
•  
•

The Committee on Health Policy (Osgood) recommended the following:

1                   **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

2  
3                   Delete lines 134 - 206

4 and insert:

5                   (a) Subject to a specific appropriation of funds in the  
6 General Appropriations Act, the Doula Support for Healthy Births  
7 pilot program is established in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm  
8 Beach Counties to integrate doula services into existing  
9 maternal health initiatives, targeting pregnant and postpartum  
10 women who have overcome or are overcoming substance use



11     disorders.

12     (b) The purpose of the pilot program is to improve birth  
13 outcomes by decreasing preterm birth rates and cesarean  
14 deliveries, enhancing access to care, and supporting maternal  
15 well-being throughout the pregnancy, labor, and postpartum  
16 periods using evidence-based methods.

17     (c) The department, through its maternal and child health  
18 section, shall implement and oversee the pilot program.

19     (3) PROGRAM STRUCTURE.—

20     (a) The pilot program may operate for 12 to 24 months,  
21 based on appropriated funds.

22     (b) The pilot program shall target the enrollment of  
23 pregnant and postpartum women who have overcome or are  
24 overcoming substance use disorders.

25     (c) The following support services must be offered under  
26 the pilot program:

27       1. Prenatal support, such as educational resources,  
28 personalized birth plans, and emotional support.

29       2. Labor support, such as continuous emotional support,  
30 comfort measures, and communication facilitation.

31       3. Postpartum support, such as assistance with newborn  
32 care, postpartum resources, and household tasks.

33       4. Advocacy support, such as assistance with preferences  
34 and needs within medical settings and health care navigation.

35       5. Comprehensive emotional support during the pregnancy and  
36 postpartum periods.

37     (4) COLLABORATION; INTEGRATION.—

38       (a) The department shall collaborate with:

39           1. Health care providers, community organizations,



40 community coalitions, and advocacy groups to integrate doulas  
41 and doula services into existing maternal health programs,  
42 ensuring that such doulas are trained and meet all of the  
43 following criteria:

44       a. Demonstrate a strong understanding of the reproductive  
45 system, labor process, and postpartum recovery.

46       b. Are proficient in hands-on techniques, such as massage,  
47 counterpressure, breathing exercises, and nonmedicated pain  
48 management.

49       c. Support a client's birth plan, communicate effectively  
50 with medical staff, and advocate for informed consent.

51       d. Provide guidance on breastfeeding, basic newborn care,  
52 and both the physical and emotional aspects of postpartum  
53 recovery.

54       e. Use active listening, clear communication, and conflict  
55 resolution skills in interactions with clients and health care  
56 providers.

57       f. Understand common medical complications and provide  
58 emotional and physical support to clients in challenging  
59 situations.

60       g. Uphold professionalism, ethical decisionmaking, and  
61 legal responsibilities in doula practice.

62       2. Local WIC programs, hospitals, birth centers, and  
63 community health centers to facilitate outreach and service  
64 delivery.

65       (b) If appropriated funding is sufficient, the department  
66 may integrate doula services into existing maternal and child  
67 health programs as an expansion of the pilot program, focusing  
68 on pregnant and postpartum women who have overcome or are



69 overcoming substance use disorders. Any such expansion of the  
70 pilot program must include annual reporting requirements for the  
71 department to evaluate effectiveness, equity, and quality of  
72 integrating doula services into the existing maternal and child  
73 health programs.

74

75 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

76 And the title is amended as follows:

77 Delete lines 6 - 21

78 and insert:

79 specified purpose, subject to a specific appropriation  
80 in the General Appropriations Act; providing the  
81 purpose of the pilot program; requiring the Department  
82 of Health, in collaboration with its maternal and  
83 child health section, to implement and oversee the  
84 pilot program; specifying the duration of the pilot  
85 program, based on appropriated funds; requiring the  
86 pilot program to target specified populations for  
87 enrollment; specifying services that must be provided  
88 under the pilot program; requiring the department to  
89 collaborate with specified entities to integrate doula  
90 services into existing maternal health programs and  
91 facilitate outreach and service delivery; authorizing  
92 the department to integrate doula services into  
93 existing maternal and child health programs as an  
94 expansion of the pilot program, subject to certain  
95 requirements; creating