



199948

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 134 - 206

and insert:

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



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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,



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 6 - 21

and insert:

specified purpose, subject to a specific appropriation
in the General Appropriations Act; providing the
purpose of the pilot program; requiring the Department
of Health, in collaboration with its maternal and
child health section, to implement and oversee the
pilot program; specifying the duration of the pilot
program, based on appropriated funds; requiring the
pilot program to target specified populations for
enrollment; specifying services that must be provided
under the pilot program; requiring the department to
collaborate with specified entities to integrate doula
services into existing maternal health programs and
facilitate outreach and service delivery; authorizing
the department to integrate doula services into
existing maternal and child health programs as an
expansion of the pilot program, subject to certain
requirements; creating