

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1523

H.P. 1008

House of Representatives, April 8, 2025

An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DHALAC of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, EATON of Deer Isle, MCCABE of Lewiston,
RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-PPP is enacted to read:

§3174-PPP. Reimbursement for doula services

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "doula services" means the provision of services to a person by a nonclinical professional related to the physical, emotional and informational support of that person throughout pregnancy, labor, birth and the postpartum period, including, but not limited to, guidance and support concerning pregnancy health, childbirth, infant feeding and newborn care.

2. Reimbursement. Beginning January 1, 2026, the department shall provide reimbursement under the MaineCare program for doula services, including, but not limited to, attendance during childbirth and a maximum of 4 prenatal and 4 postpartum visits.

3. Advisory committee. The department shall establish a doula advisory committee to provide advice and make recommendations to the department regarding doula services. The advisory committee must include practicing doulas and must represent a range of experience levels. Advice provided by the advisory committee must include, but is not limited to, the scope of doula services eligible for reimbursement under this section, the recruitment of a diverse workforce of doulas to provide services in the State, the development of comprehensive continuing education and training at low cost, reimbursement billing issues, outreach to the public about how to access doula services and maintaining a reimbursement rate for doula services that incentivizes and supports a diverse workforce.

4. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires reimbursement under the MaineCare program for doula services. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish an advisory committee to provide advice and make recommendations to the department regarding doula services.