

SENATE BILL NO. 319

INTRODUCED BY C. NEUMANN, W. GALT, D. ZOLNIKOV, W. CURDY, J. ELLIS, D. EMRICH, W.  
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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO DOULAS;  
PROVIDING FOR ~~CERTIFICATION LICENSURE~~ AND REGULATION OF DOULAS; ESTABLISHING  
VOLUNTARY ~~CERTIFICATION LICENSURE~~ REQUIREMENTS; ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE MEDICAID COVERAGE OF ~~STATE-CERTIFIED-LICENSED~~  
DOULA SERVICES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 37-1-401 AND 53-6-  
101, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 4], the following definitions  
apply:

(1) "Antepartum" means the period of pregnancy prior to ~~labor and delivery~~ the end of pregnancy.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15,  
part 17.

(3) (a) "Doula" means a trained, nonmedical professional who provides continuous physical,  
emotional, and informational support to a pregnant person WOMAN during the antepartum, ~~or~~ intrapartum, ~~period~~  
or ~~during the period up to 1 year~~ postpartum period.

(b) ~~The term does not include a traditional healing provider or a person providing services to a  
friend or family member.~~

(4) "Intrapartum" means the period of pregnancy after the onset of labor through delivery.

(5) "Postpartum" means the 12-month period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy.

~~(6) "State-certified doula" means a doula who has been certified by the department.~~

~~(6) "Traditional healing provider" means an individual who provides traditional healing services in a  
manner that is recognized by an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe as being consistent with the tribe's~~

traditional healing practices.

(7) "Traditional healing services" means a system of culturally appropriate healing methods for physical, mental, and emotional healing.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. ~~Certification License~~ requirements ~~--- coordination with doulas~~.** (1) **A**

Beginning January 1, 2027, a person may not practice as a ~~state-certified~~ doula unless certified-licensed under Title 37, chapter 1, and [sections 1 through 4].

~~(2) — A doula may voluntarily apply for certification from the department under this section.~~

~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall certify-license a person as a ~~state-certified~~ doula if the person pays the fees prescribed by the department and:

(a) submits a completed application as required by the department;

(b) satisfactorily completes competencies that meet the requirements established by the department by rule;

(c) has not engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in 37-1-410; and

(d) is not currently subject to any disciplinary proceedings.

(3) The department may issue a limited license to qualified individuals engaged in supervised professional experience as defined by rule.

(4) The department shall coordinate with doulas to establish certification requirements and oversee the certification of state-certified doulas.

**~~NEW SECTION. Section 3. Voluntary certification --- practice as doula without certification permitted.~~** Nothing in [sections 1 through 4] prohibits a person from practicing as a doula without obtaining ~~certification under [section 2].~~

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Exemptions.** [Sections 1 through 4] do not prohibit a qualified member of another profession, business, educational program, or volunteer organization who is not licensed or certified or for whom there is no applicable code of ethics, including peer mentors, advocates, and coaches, from performing duties and services consistent with the person's training, as long as the person does not represent

by title that the person is engaging in the practice of doula care.

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of [sections 1 through 4].

**Section 5.** Section 37-1-401, MCA, is amended to read:

**"37-1-401. (Temporary) Uniform regulation for licensing programs without boards -- definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Complaint" means a written allegation filed with the department that, if true, warrants an injunction, disciplinary action against a licensee, or denial of an application submitted by a license applicant.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(3) "Investigation" means the inquiry, analysis, audit, or other pursuit of information by the department, with respect to a complaint or other information before the department, that is carried out for the purpose of determining:

(a) whether a person has violated a provision of law justifying discipline against the person;

(b) the status of compliance with a stipulation or order of the department;

(c) whether a license should be granted, denied, or conditionally issued; or

(d) whether the department should seek an injunction.

(4) "License" means permission in the form of a license, permit, endorsement, certificate, recognition, or registration granted by the state of Montana to engage in a business activity or practice at a specific level in a profession or occupation governed by:

(a) Title 37, chapter 2, part 6;

(b) Title 37, chapter 16, 40, 56, 60, 72, ~~or 73~~, or [sections 1 through 4]; or

(c) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76.

(5) "Profession" or "occupation" means a profession or occupation regulated by the department under the provisions of:

(a) Title 37, chapter 2, part 6;

(b) Title 37, chapter 16, 40, 49, 56, 60, 72, ~~or 73~~, or [sections 1 through 4]; or

(c) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76. (Terminates June 30, 2031--sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 2023.)

**37-1-401. (Effective July 1, 2031) Uniform regulation for licensing programs without boards --**

**definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Complaint" means a written allegation filed with the department that, if true, warrants an injunction, disciplinary action against a licensee, or denial of an application submitted by a license applicant.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(3) "Investigation" means the inquiry, analysis, audit, or other pursuit of information by the department, with respect to a complaint or other information before the department, that is carried out for the purpose of determining:

(a) whether a person has violated a provision of law justifying discipline against the person;

(b) the status of compliance with a stipulation or order of the department;

(c) whether a license should be granted, denied, or conditionally issued; or

(d) whether the department should seek an injunction.

(4) "License" means permission in the form of a license, permit, endorsement, certificate, recognition, or registration granted by the state of Montana to engage in a business activity or practice at a specific level in a profession or occupation governed by:

(a) Title 37, chapter 16, 40, 56, 60, 72, ~~or 73~~, or sections 1 through 4; or

(b) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76.

(5) "Profession" or "occupation" means a profession or occupation regulated by the department under the provisions of:

(a) Title 37, chapter 16, 40, 49, 56, 60, 72, ~~or 73~~, or sections 1 through 4; or

(b) Title 50, chapter 39, 74, or 76."

**Section 6.** Section 53-6-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"53-6-101. Montana medicaid program -- authorization of services.** (1) There is a Montana medicaid program established for the purpose of providing necessary medical services to eligible persons who have need for medical assistance. The Montana medicaid program is a joint federal-state program administered under this chapter and in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq. The

1 department shall administer the Montana medicaid program.

2 (2) The department and the legislature shall consider the following funding principles when  
3 considering changes in medicaid policy that either increase or reduce services:

4 (a) protecting those persons who are most vulnerable and most in need, as defined by a  
5 combination of economic, social, and medical circumstances;

6 (b) giving preference to the elimination or restoration of an entire medicaid program or service,  
7 rather than sacrifice or augment the quality of care for several programs or services through dilution of funding;  
8 and

9 (c) giving priority to services that employ the science of prevention to reduce disability and illness,  
10 services that treat life-threatening conditions, and services that support independent or assisted living, including  
11 pain management, to reduce the need for acute inpatient or residential care.

12 (3) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program includes the following services:

13 (a) inpatient hospital services;

14 (b) outpatient hospital services;

15 (c) other laboratory and x-ray services, including minimum mammography examination as defined  
16 in 33-22-132;

17 (d) skilled nursing services in long-term care facilities;

18 (e) physicians' services;

19 (f) nurse specialist services;

20 (g) early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services for persons under 21 years of  
21 age, in accordance with federal regulations and subsection (10)(b);

22 (h) ambulatory prenatal care for pregnant women during a presumptive eligibility period, as  
23 provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(47) and 42 U.S.C. 1396r-1;

24 (i) targeted case management services, as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1396n(g), for high-risk  
25 pregnant women;

26 (j) services that are provided by physician assistants within the scope of their practice and that are  
27 otherwise directly reimbursed as allowed under department rule to an existing provider;

28 (k) health services provided under a physician's orders by a public health department;

- 1 (l) federally qualified health center services, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2);
- 2 (m) routine patient costs for qualified individuals enrolled in an approved clinical trial for cancer as
- 3 provided in 33-22-153;
- 4 (n) for children 18 years of age and younger, habilitative services as defined in 53-4-1103;
- 5 (o) services provided by a person certified in accordance with 37-2-318 to provide services in
- 6 accordance with the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.;
- 7 (p) fertility preservation services in accordance with 33-22-2103; and
- 8 (q) planned home births for women with a low risk of adverse birth outcomes, as established by
- 9 the appropriate licensing board, that are attended by certified nurse-midwives licensed under Title 37, chapter
- 10 8, or direct-entry midwives licensed under Title 37, chapter 27. Coverage under this section includes prenatal
- 11 care and postpartum care.
- 12 (4) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program may, as provided by
- 13 department rule, also include the following services:
- 14 (a) medical care or any other type of remedial care recognized under state law, furnished by
- 15 licensed practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;
- 16 (b) home health care services[, including services provided by pediatric complex care assistants
- 17 licensed pursuant to 37-2-603];
- 18 (c) private-duty nursing services;
- 19 (d) dental services;
- 20 (e) physical therapy services;
- 21 (f) mental health center services administered and funded under a state mental health program
- 22 authorized under Title 53, chapter 21, part 10;
- 23 (g) clinical social worker services;
- 24 (h) prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices;
- 25 (i) prescribed eyeglasses;
- 26 (j) other diagnostic, screening, preventive, rehabilitative, chiropractic, and osteopathic services;
- 27 (k) inpatient psychiatric hospital services for persons under 21 years of age;
- 28 (l) services of clinical professional counselors licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;

- (m) services of a marriage and family therapist licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;
- (n) hospice care, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(o);
- (o) case management services, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(a) and 1396n(g), including targeted case management services for the mentally ill;
- (p) services of psychologists licensed under Title 37, chapter 17;
- (q) inpatient psychiatric services for persons under 21 years of age, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(h), in a residential treatment facility, as defined in 50-5-101, that is licensed in accordance with 50-5-201;
- (r) services of behavioral health peer support specialists certified under Title 37, chapter 39, provided to adults 18 years of age and older with a diagnosis of a mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102;
- (s) services of ~~state-certified~~ doulas ~~certified licensed~~ under [sections 1 through 4]; and
- ~~(s)(t)~~ any additional medical service or aid allowable under or provided by the federal Social Security Act.
- (5) Services for persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance, as described in 53-6-131, may be more limited in amount, scope, and duration than services provided to others qualifying for assistance under the Montana medicaid program. The department is not required to provide all of the services listed in subsections (3) and (4) to persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance.
- (6) In accordance with federal law or waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department may implement limited medicaid benefits, to be known as basic medicaid, for adult recipients who are eligible because they are receiving cash assistance, as defined in 53-4-201, as the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child and for all adult recipients of medical assistance only who are covered under a group related to a program providing cash assistance, as defined in 53-4-201. Basic medicaid benefits consist of all mandatory services listed in subsection (3) but may include those optional services listed in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(s) that the department in its discretion specifies by rule. The department, in exercising its discretion, may consider the amount of funds appropriated by the legislature, whether approval has been received, as provided in 53-1-612, and whether the provision of a particular service is commonly covered by private health insurance plans. However, a recipient who is pregnant, meets the criteria for disability provided in Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 416, et seq., or

1 is less than 21 years of age is entitled to full medicaid coverage.

2 (7) The department may implement, as provided for in Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42  
3 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, a program under medicaid for payment of medicare premiums,  
4 deductibles, and coinsurance for persons not otherwise eligible for medicaid.

5 (8) (a) The department may set rates for medical and other services provided to recipients of  
6 medicaid and may enter into contracts for delivery of services to individual recipients or groups of recipients.

7 (b) The department shall strive to close gaps in services provided to individuals suffering from  
8 mental illness and co-occurring disorders by doing the following:

9 (i) simplifying administrative rules, payment methods, and contracting processes for providing  
10 services to individuals of different ages, diagnoses, and treatments. Any adjustments to payments must be  
11 cost-neutral for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017.

12 (ii) publishing a report on an annual basis that describes the process that a mental health center or  
13 chemical dependency facility, as those terms are defined in 50-5-101, must utilize in order to receive payment  
14 from Montana medicaid for services provided to individuals of different ages, diagnoses, and treatments.

15 (9) The services provided under this part may be only those that are medically necessary and that  
16 are the most efficient and cost-effective.

17 (10) (a) The amount, scope, and duration of services provided under this part must be determined  
18 by the department in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be  
19 amended.

20 (b) The department shall, with reasonable promptness, provide access to all medically necessary  
21 services prescribed under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment benefit, including access  
22 to prescription drugs and durable medical equipment for which the department has not negotiated a rebate.

23 (11) Services, procedures, and items of an experimental or cosmetic nature may not be provided.

24 (12) (a) Prior to enacting changes to provider rates, medicaid waivers, or the medicaid state plan,  
25 the department shall report this information to the following committees:

26 (i) the children, families, health, and human services interim committee;

27 (ii) the legislative finance committee; and

28 (iii) the health and human services budget committee.



(b) In its report to the committees, the department shall provide an explanation for the proposed changes and an estimated budget impact to the department over the next 4 fiscal years.

(13) If available funds are not sufficient to provide medical assistance for all eligible persons, the department may set priorities to limit, reduce, or otherwise curtail the amount, scope, or duration of the medical services made available under the Montana medicaid program after taking into consideration the funding principles set forth in subsection (2). (Subsection (3)(o) terminates September 30, 2025--sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 2023; bracketed language in subsection (4)(b) terminates June 30, 2031--sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 2023.)"

**NEW SECTION. Section 7. Transition.** An applicant who serves as an unlicensed doula for a period prior to January 1, 2026, may be licensed if the applicant provides sufficient evidence to the department of labor and industry that the applicant's experience providing doula services is equivalent to the requirements for licensure defined by department rule. To be eligible for licensure under this section, an individual shall demonstrate the evidence to the department on or before December 31, 2027.

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 37, and the provisions of Title 37 apply to [sections 1 through 4].

**NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date.** [This act] is effective January 1, 2026.

- END -