

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4119

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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Senator NELLIE POU

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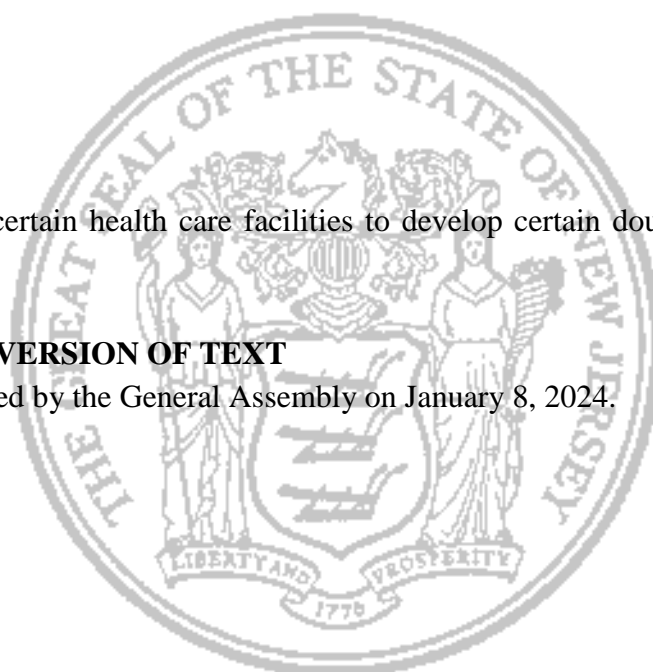
Senator Burgess, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Pintor Marin, Mosquera and Swain

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain health care facilities to develop certain doula policies and procedures.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on January 8, 2024.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning doulas and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 ¹**[**“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.**]**¹

9 ²“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.²

10 “Birthing center” means a birthing center licensed pursuant to
11 P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

12 ²¹“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.¹²

13 “Doula” means a trained professional who provides continuous
14 physical, emotional, and informational support to a mother before,
15 during, and after labor and childbirth, to help her to achieve the
16 healthiest, most satisfying experience possible.

17 “Hospital” means ¹**[a]** every general or special¹ hospital
18 licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) that
19 provides maternity services.

20 ²**[** ¹“Reproductive health service provider” means a hospital, clinic,
21 physician's office, or other facility that provides reproductive health
22 services, including an employee, a volunteer, or a contractor of the
23 provider.

24 “Reproductive health services” means medical, surgical,
25 counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive
26 system, including services relating to pregnancy or the termination
27 of a pregnancy.

28 “WIC” means the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
29 Women, Infants and Children, established pursuant to the federal
30 “Child Nutrition Act of 1966,” Pub.L.89-642 (42 U.S.C. s.1771 et
31 seq.).¹²

32 b. Each hospital and birthing center shall, commencing no later
33 than the 180th day after the effective date of this act, adopt and
34 maintain written policies and procedures authorizing a patient to
35 select a doula of the patient’s choice to accompany the patient
36 within the facility’s premises for the purposes of providing support
37 before, during, and after labor and childbirth.

38 c. Each hospital and birthing center shall provide a written copy
39 of the policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection b. of
40 this section to:

41 (1) each health care provider providing maternity services at the
42 facility;

43 (2) each patient receiving maternity services at the facility;

44 ²**[**¹**[and]**¹**]** and²

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 4, 2024.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted January 8, 2024.

- 1 (3) any other person, at the request of the patient ²¶¹;
- 2 (4) nearby reproductive health service providers, including, but
- 3 not limited to, Planned Parenthood health clinics; and
- 4 (5) nearby local WIC agencies and clinic offices¹¶².
- 5 d. Each hospital and birthing center shall post a ¹¶[notice]
- 6 summary¹ of the facility’s policies and procedures adopted pursuant
- 7 to subsection b. of this section ¹¶in a conspicuous place:
- 8 (1) in the room of any patient admitted to the facility for
- 9 maternity services; and
- 10 (2)¶¹ on the facility’s Internet website ²¶¹. The hospital or
- 11 birthing center shall make the summary available in the 10
- 12 languages most commonly spoken in New Jersey, and, at the
- 13 discretion of the commissioner, in such additional languages as the
- 14 commissioner deems appropriate¹¶².
- 15 e. Each hospital and birthing center shall designate a staff
- 16 member to serve as a liaison between the facility and doulas and
- 17 doula organizations in order to provide information concerning the
- 18 facility’s policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection b.
- 19 of this section.
- 20
- 21 2. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and regulations
- 22 in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L. 1968,
- 23 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as the commissioner deems necessary to
- 24 effectuate the purposes of this act.
- 25
- 26 3. This act shall take effect immediately.