

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 701

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 22, 2025

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public assistance; to amend section 68-901,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to state legislative
- 3 intent; to provide for reimbursement of doula services as
- 4 prescribed; to establish a work group; to define a term; and to
- 5 repeal the original section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 68-901 Sections 68-901 to 68-9,111 and section 2 of this act shall
4 be known and may be cited as the Medical Assistance Act.

5 **Sec. 2.** (1) The Legislature finds that: (a) Doula services have
6 been proven to reduce the cost of birthing and improve outcomes for
7 mothers and infants; (b) one of the most effective services to improve
8 labor and delivery outcomes is the continuous presence of support
9 personnel such as a doula; and (c) support from a doula is associated
10 with lower cesarean rates, as well as fewer obstetric interventions,
11 fewer complications, less pain medication, shorter labor hours, and
12 higher Apgar scores for infants.

13 (2) No later than January 1, 2027, the department shall reimburse a
14 provider for doula services. Such reimbursement shall be paid by state
15 funds at rates determined by the department. The department shall submit
16 a state plan amendment, if necessary, to provide for reimbursement of
17 doula services.

18 (3)(a) The department shall establish a work group of stakeholders
19 and experts to develop an implementation plan, including appropriate
20 reimbursement rates and appropriate training, certification, or
21 experience requirements for doula services. The work group shall submit
22 the implementation plan to the department no later than October 1, 2026.

23 (b) The work group shall be comprised of the following: (i) Thirty
24 percent of the members shall represent the doula profession; (ii) thirty
25 percent of the members shall represent communities of color
26 disproportionately impacted by poor birth outcomes; (iii) ten percent of
27 the members shall represent rural Nebraska; and (iv) ten percent of the
28 members shall have utilized doula services.

29 (c) Additional members of the group shall include, but not be
30 limited to: (i) Medical providers; (ii) public health professionals;
31 (iii) representatives of tribal organizations; and (iv) community

1 advocates.

2 (4)(a) For purposes of this section, doula means a trained
3 professional who provides emotional, physical, and informational support
4 for individuals before, during, and after labor and birth. This includes,
5 but is not limited to, attending prenatal visits, support during
6 delivery, and providing resources during the postpartum period.

7 (b) A doula shall have appropriate training, certification, or
8 experience, as determined by the implementation plan developed by the
9 work group described in subdivision (3)(a) of this section.

10 (c) A doula shall not perform clinical or medical tasks and shall
11 not diagnose or treat in any modality.

12 **Sec. 3.** Original section 68-901, Revised Statutes Cumulative
13 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.