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HOUSE BILL 2350

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Simmons and Stonier

1 AN ACT Relating to birth doulas; amending RCW 18.47.010 and  
2 18.47.030; and adding a new section to chapter 18.47 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.47.010 and 2022 c 217 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) (~~"Department" means the department of health.~~

9 ~~(2))~~ "Birth doula" means a person that is a nonmedical birth  
10 coach or support person trained to provide physical, emotional, and  
11 informational support to birthing persons during pregnancy from the  
12 date of confirmed conception, antepartum, labor, birth, and the  
13 postpartum period. Birth doulas advocate for and support birthing  
14 people and families to self-advocate by helping them to know their  
15 rights and make informed decisions. Birth doulas do not provide  
16 medical care.

17 ~~((3))~~ (2) "Culturally congruent care" means a duty to learn  
18 respect for and uphold a birth doula's client's cultural practices  
19 around birth regardless of the birth doula's identity. "Culturally  
20 congruent care" includes a birth doula's duty to use community

1 resources and networks to help families access other doulas from the  
2 same background, religion, culture, and community as them.

3 (3) "Department" means the department of health.

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

6 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.47.030 and 2022 c 217 s 3 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The secretary shall:

10 (a) In collaboration with community partners who advance  
11 equitable access to improve perinatal outcomes and care through  
12 holistic services for black and brown communities, adopt rules  
13 establishing the competency-based requirements that a birth doula  
14 must meet to obtain certification. The rules must establish processes  
15 that allow for applicants to meet the competency-based requirements  
16 through the following pathways:

17 (i) Successful completion of training and education programs  
18 approved by the secretary, including proof of knowledge related to  
19 culturally congruent care; and

20 (ii) Submission of proof of successful completion of culturally  
21 congruent ancestral practices, training, and education that the  
22 secretary must review and determine whether the training and  
23 education meet the competency-based requirements;

24 (b) Establish certification and renewal fees, administrative  
25 procedures, continuing education, administrative requirements, and  
26 forms necessary to implement this chapter in accordance with RCW  
27 43.70.250 and 43.70.280;

28 (c) Maintain a record of all applicants and certifications under  
29 this chapter; and

30 (d) Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as  
31 needed to implement and administer this chapter.

32 (2) All fees collected under this chapter must be credited to the  
33 health professions account as required under RCW 43.70.320.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.47  
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1) Subject to amounts appropriated specifically for this  
37 purpose, in no case may the secretary:

1           (a) Between July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2030, impose any  
2 certification, examination, or renewal fee upon a person seeking  
3 certification as a certified doula under this chapter;

4           (b) After July 1, 2030, impose a certification, examination, or  
5 renewal fee of more than \$95 upon a person seeking certification as a  
6 certified doula under this chapter.

7           (2) All fees under this section shall be fixed by rule adopted by  
8 the secretary in accordance with the provisions of the administrative  
9 procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

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