
HOUSE BILL 2016

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives DeBolt, Hayes, Stanford, Doglio, and Muri

Read first time 02/07/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to midwifery and doula services for
2 incarcerated women; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 70.48 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department must make reasonable accommodations for the
8 provision of available doula services to inmates who are pregnant or
9 who have given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing doula
10 services must be granted appropriate facility access, must be allowed
11 to attend and provide assistance during labor and childbirth where
12 feasible, and must have access to the inmate's relevant health care
13 information, as defined in RCW 70.02.010, if the inmate authorizes
14 disclosure.

15 (2) For purposes of this section, "doula services" are services
16 provided by a trained doula and designed to provide physical,
17 emotional, or informational support to a pregnant woman before,
18 during, and after delivery of a child. Doula services may include,
19 but are not limited to: Support and assistance during labor and
20 childbirth; prenatal and postpartum education; breastfeeding

1 assistance; parenting education; and support in the event that a
2 woman has been or will become separated from her child.

3 (3) Nothing in this section requires the department to establish
4 or provide funding for doula services, or prevents the department
5 from adopting policy guidelines for the delivery of doula services to
6 inmates.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.48
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Jails must make reasonable accommodations for the provision
10 of available doula services to inmates who are pregnant or who have
11 given birth in the last six weeks. Persons providing doula services
12 must be granted appropriate facility access, must be allowed to
13 attend and provide assistance during labor and childbirth where
14 feasible, and must have access to the inmate's relevant health care
15 information, as defined in RCW 70.02.010, if the inmate authorizes
16 disclosure.

17 (2) For purposes of this section, "doula services" are services
18 provided by a trained doula and designed to provide physical,
19 emotional, or informational support to a pregnant woman before,
20 during, and after delivery of a child. Doula services may include,
21 but are not limited to: Support and assistance during labor and
22 childbirth; prenatal and postpartum education; breastfeeding
23 assistance; parenting education; and support in the event that a
24 woman has been or will become separated from her child.

25 (3) Nothing in this section requires governing units to establish
26 or provide funding for doula services, or prevents the adoption of
27 policy guidelines for the delivery of doula services to inmates.

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