

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1881**

Chapter 217, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature  
2022 Regular Session

BIRTH DOULAS

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022—Except for sections 1 through 5, which  
take effect October 1, 2023.

Passed by the House March 8, 2022  
Yeas 57 Nays 41

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2022  
Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 30, 2022 2:35 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1881** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 31, 2022

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1881**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      67th Legislature                      2022 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Harris-Talley, Entenman, Berry, J. Johnson, Ortiz-Self, Ryu, Simmons, Stonier, Wicks, Senn, Peterson, Chopp, Ormsby, Goodman, Berg, Ramel, Chase, Taylor, Frame, Davis, Macri, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/22.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a new health profession for birth  
2    doulas; amending RCW 18.130.040; adding a new chapter to Title 18  
3    RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The definitions in this section apply  
6    throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
7    otherwise.

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

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

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

18            (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of health.

19            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) A birth doula may voluntarily apply  
20   for certification from the department under this section.

1 (2) The department shall issue a certification to any applicant  
2 who has met the following requirements:

3 (a) Submitted a completed application as required by the  
4 department;

5 (b) Satisfactorily completed competencies that meet the  
6 requirements established by the secretary;

7 (c) Has not engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in RCW  
8 18.130.180;

9 (d) Is not currently subject to any disciplinary proceedings; and

10 (e) Paid a certification fee established by the secretary in  
11 rule.

12 (3) The uniform disciplinary act, chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the  
13 issuance and denial of certifications and the discipline of certified  
14 birth doulas under this chapter.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The secretary shall:

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

23 (i) Successful completion of training and education programs  
24 approved by the secretary; and

25 (ii) Submission of proof of successful completion of culturally  
26 congruent ancestral practices, training, and education that the  
27 secretary must review and determine whether the training and  
28 education meet the competency-based requirements;

29 (b) Establish certification and renewal fees, administrative  
30 procedures, continuing education, administrative requirements, and  
31 forms necessary to implement this chapter in accordance with RCW  
32 43.70.250 and 43.70.280;

33 (c) Maintain a record of all applicants and certifications under  
34 this chapter; and

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

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

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    (1) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a  
2 person from practicing as a birth doula without obtaining  
3 certification under this chapter.

4        (2) No person may use the title "state-certified birth doula" in  
5 connection with the person's name to indicate or imply, directly or  
6 indirectly, that the person is a state-certified birth doula without  
7 being certified in accordance with this chapter as a birth doula.

8        **Sec. 5.**    RCW 18.130.040 and 2021 c 179 s 7 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10        (1) This chapter applies only to the secretary and the boards and  
11 commissions having jurisdiction in relation to the professions  
12 licensed under the chapters specified in this section. This chapter  
13 does not apply to any business or profession not licensed under the  
14 chapters specified in this section.

15        (2) (a) The secretary has authority under this chapter in relation  
16 to the following professions:

17        (i) Dispensing opticians licensed and designated apprentices  
18 under chapter 18.34 RCW;

19        (ii) Midwives licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW;

20        (iii) Ocularists licensed under chapter 18.55 RCW;

21        (iv) Massage therapists and businesses licensed under chapter  
22 18.108 RCW;

23        (v) Dental hygienists licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW;

24        (vi) Acupuncturists or acupuncture and Eastern medicine  
25 practitioners licensed under chapter 18.06 RCW;

26        (vii) Radiologic technologists certified and X-ray technicians  
27 registered under chapter 18.84 RCW;

28        (viii) Respiratory care practitioners licensed under chapter  
29 18.89 RCW;

30        (ix) Hypnotherapists and agency affiliated counselors registered  
31 and advisors and counselors certified under chapter 18.19 RCW;

32        (x) Persons licensed as mental health counselors, mental health  
33 counselor associates, marriage and family therapists, marriage and  
34 family therapist associates, social workers, social work associates—  
35 advanced, and social work associates—independent clinical under  
36 chapter 18.225 RCW;

37        (xi) Persons registered as nursing pool operators under chapter  
38 18.52C RCW;

- 1 (xii) Nursing assistants registered or certified or medication  
2 assistants endorsed under chapter 18.88A RCW;
- 3 (xiii) Dietitians and nutritionists certified under chapter  
4 18.138 RCW;
- 5 (xiv) Substance use disorder professionals, substance use  
6 disorder professional trainees, or co-occurring disorder specialists  
7 certified under chapter 18.205 RCW;
- 8 (xv) Sex offender treatment providers and certified affiliate sex  
9 offender treatment providers certified under chapter 18.155 RCW;
- 10 (xvi) Persons licensed and certified under chapter 18.73 RCW or  
11 RCW 18.71.205;
- 12 (xvii) Orthotists and prosthetists licensed under chapter 18.200  
13 RCW;
- 14 (xviii) Surgical technologists registered under chapter 18.215  
15 RCW;
- 16 (xix) Recreational therapists under chapter 18.230 RCW;
- 17 (xx) Animal massage therapists certified under chapter 18.240  
18 RCW;
- 19 (xxi) Athletic trainers licensed under chapter 18.250 RCW;
- 20 (xxii) Home care aides certified under chapter 18.88B RCW;
- 21 (xxiii) Genetic counselors licensed under chapter 18.290 RCW;
- 22 (xxiv) Reflexologists certified under chapter 18.108 RCW;
- 23 (xxv) Medical assistants-certified, medical assistants-  
24 hemodialysis technician, medical assistants-phlebotomist, forensic  
25 phlebotomist, and medical assistants-registered certified and  
26 registered under chapter 18.360 RCW; (~~and~~)
- 27 (xxvi) Behavior analysts, assistant behavior analysts, and  
28 behavior technicians under chapter 18.380 RCW; and
- 29 (xxvii) Birth doulas certified under chapter 18.--- RCW (the new  
30 chapter created in section 7 of this act).
- 31 (b) The boards and commissions having authority under this  
32 chapter are as follows:
- 33 (i) The podiatric medical board as established in chapter 18.22  
34 RCW;
- 35 (ii) The chiropractic quality assurance commission as established  
36 in chapter 18.25 RCW;
- 37 (iii) The dental quality assurance commission as established in  
38 chapter 18.32 RCW governing licenses issued under chapter 18.32 RCW,  
39 licenses and registrations issued under chapter 18.260 RCW, and  
40 certifications issued under chapter 18.350 RCW;

- 1 (iv) The board of hearing and speech as established in chapter  
2 18.35 RCW;
- 3 (v) The board of examiners for nursing home administrators as  
4 established in chapter 18.52 RCW;
- 5 (vi) The optometry board as established in chapter 18.54 RCW  
6 governing licenses issued under chapter 18.53 RCW;
- 7 (vii) The board of osteopathic medicine and surgery as  
8 established in chapter 18.57 RCW governing licenses issued under  
9 chapter 18.57 RCW;
- 10 (viii) The pharmacy quality assurance commission as established  
11 in chapter 18.64 RCW governing licenses issued under chapters 18.64  
12 and 18.64A RCW;
- 13 (ix) The Washington medical commission as established in chapter  
14 18.71 RCW governing licenses and registrations issued under chapters  
15 18.71 and 18.71A RCW;
- 16 (x) The board of physical therapy as established in chapter 18.74  
17 RCW;
- 18 (xi) The board of occupational therapy practice as established in  
19 chapter 18.59 RCW;
- 20 (xii) The nursing care quality assurance commission as  
21 established in chapter 18.79 RCW governing licenses and registrations  
22 issued under that chapter;
- 23 (xiii) The examining board of psychology and its disciplinary  
24 committee as established in chapter 18.83 RCW;
- 25 (xiv) The veterinary board of governors as established in chapter  
26 18.92 RCW;
- 27 (xv) The board of naturopathy established in chapter 18.36A RCW,  
28 governing licenses and certifications issued under that chapter; and
- 29 (xvi) The board of denturists established in chapter 18.30 RCW.
- 30 (3) In addition to the authority to discipline license holders,  
31 the disciplining authority has the authority to grant or deny  
32 licenses. The disciplining authority may also grant a license subject  
33 to conditions.
- 34 (4) All disciplining authorities shall adopt procedures to ensure  
35 substantially consistent application of this chapter, the uniform  
36 disciplinary act, among the disciplining authorities listed in  
37 subsection (2) of this section.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The secretary may adopt any rules  
39 necessary to implement this chapter.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    Sections 1 through 4 and 6 of this act  
2    constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    Sections 1 through 5 of this act take  
4    effect October 1, 2023.

Passed by the House March 8, 2022.

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2022.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2022.

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