

March 19, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1464

Introduced by

Representatives Dobervich, K. Anderson, Brown, Finley-DeVille, Hager, Hanson, Rohr,
Steiner

Senators Hogan, Mathern

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-12 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to postpartum doula certification; and to provide for a legislative-~~
3 ~~management report.~~ for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to
4 maternal care services; and to provide an appropriation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~— SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 23-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created-~~
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **Postpartum doula certification.**~~

9 ~~— 1. As used in this section:~~

10 ~~— a. "Certified doula" means an individual who has received a certification to perform-~~
11 ~~doula services from the doulas of North America or an organization designated-~~
12 ~~by the department.~~

13 ~~— b. "Department" means the department of health and human services.~~

14 ~~— c. "Doula services" means education and support services for a parent and child,-~~
15 ~~including continuous emotional and physical support during the postpartum-~~
16 ~~period, including up to six months after the birth of the child.~~

17 ~~— 2. The department may:~~

18 ~~— a. Designate additional doula certification organizations;~~

19 ~~— b. Remove the designation of a doula certification organization; and~~

20 ~~— c. Adopt rules to implement and administer this section.~~

1 ~~3. The department shall establish criteria for the designation of doula certification~~
2 ~~organizations and maintain a list of designated organizations on the department's~~
3 ~~website for purposes of facilitating the availability of certified doulas to provide doula~~
4 ~~services under section 2 of this Act.~~

5 ~~4. The department may not impose a licensing or certification fee in addition to any fees~~
6 ~~imposed by a doula certification organization meeting the criteria established by the~~
7 ~~department.~~

8 ~~**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT – POSTPARTUM DOULA**~~

9 ~~**CERTIFICATION.** During the 2025-26 interim, the department of health and human services~~
10 ~~shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding postpartum doula certification,~~
11 ~~including the status of implementing and administering the responsibilities relating to~~
12 ~~postpartum doula certification under section 1 of this Act and the impact of certified doula~~
13 ~~services.~~

14 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - MATERNAL CARE SERVICES.**

- 15 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying
16 maternal care services. The study must include:
- 17 a. An analysis of the availability of medical and nonmedical prenatal services in the
18 state by community and geographic service area, and the utilization rate of each;
 - 19 b. A review of childbirth service availability, including in-home and health care
20 facility-based services, and the number of obstetrician-gynecologists and family
21 practitioners routinely delivering babies by geographic service area;
 - 22 c. A review of prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal services covered by public
23 assistance, private insurance, and pregnancy resource centers, including an
24 analysis of funding, program evaluation, and outcomes;
 - 25 d. Consideration of previous studies related to maternal care services;
 - 26 e. Consideration of maternal care resource and asset maps, service gaps,
27 evidence-based or innovative pilot project solutions for resolving service gaps,
28 and approaches for increasing the use of prenatal and postnatal care services
29 and programs;
 - 30 f. An evaluation of ways to increase the number of obstetrician-gynecologists and
31 family practitioners practicing in the state;

- 1 g. Exploration of processes for certifying, training, and reimbursing doula and
2 midwife services;
- 3 h. Consideration of public assistance and private insurance policy opportunities to
4 improve maternal and infant health outcomes; and
- 5 i. Input and consultation from key stakeholders including:
 - 6 (1) The university of North Dakota school of medicine and health sciences;
 - 7 (2) The North Dakota maternal mortality review committee;
 - 8 (3) The infant mortality review panel;
 - 9 (4) The foundation for a healthy North Dakota;
 - 10 (5) Doulas, midwives, and home-based service providers practicing in the state;
 - 11 (6) The North American college of obstetricians and gynecology;
 - 12 (7) The North Dakota medical association;
 - 13 (8) The women, infants, and children program; and
 - 14 (9) North Dakota health tracks.
- 15 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations together
16 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
17 legislative assembly.

18 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
19 **MATERNAL CARE SERVICES STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of
20 any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
21 \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human
22 services for the purpose of contracting for consulting services with a public health program in
23 the North Dakota higher education system for the maternal care services study, under section 1
24 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The
25 appropriation in this section is considered a one-time funding item.