

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1252

5 By: Representative L. Johnson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CERTIFIED COMMUNITY-BASED  
10 DOULA CERTIFICATION ACT; TO CERTIFY BIRTH AND  
11 POSTPARTUM DOULAS IN THIS STATE TO IMPROVE MATERNAL  
12 AND INFANT OUTCOMES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO ESTABLISH THE CERTIFIED COMMUNITY-  
16 BASED DOULA CERTIFICATION ACT; AND TO  
17 CERTIFY BIRTH AND POSTPARTUM DOULAS IN  
18 THIS STATE TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND  
19 INFANT OUTCOMES.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, is amended to add an additional  
25 chapter to read as follows:

### CHAPTER 108

### CERTIFIED COMMUNITY-BASED DOULA CERTIFICATION ACT

#### Subchapter 1 - General Provisions

#### 17-108-101. Title.

32 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Certified  
33 Community-Based Doula Certification Act".  
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#### 17-108-102. Definitions.

  
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1 As used in this chapter:

2 (1) "Certified community-based doula" means an individual who is  
 3 a trained professional and provides nonclinical emotional, physical, and  
 4 informational support to women, before and during pregnancy and continuing  
 5 through the postpartum period; and

6 (2) "Health benefit plan" means an individual, blanket, or group  
 7 plan, policy, or contract for healthcare services issued or delivered in this  
 8 state by a healthcare insurer, health maintenance organization, hospital  
 9 medical service corporation, or self-insured governmental or church plan in  
 10 this state.

11 Subchapter 2 - Certification

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 13 17-108-201. Certified community-based doula – Certification.

14 (a) The Department of Health shall issue a certification to be a  
 15 certified community-based doula to an individual who:

16 (1) Is eighteen (18) years of age or older;

17 (2) Submits evidence of:

18 (A) Maintaining a certification from a doula certification  
 19 organization designated by the department under § 17-108-203; or

20 (B) Holding a certificate as a doula by the Doula Alliance  
 21 of Arkansas; and

22 (3) Submits an application with an application fee of fifty  
 23 dollars (\$50.00).

24 (b)(1) A certification under this section is valid for two (2) years  
 25 after the date of issuance.

26 (2) To renew a certification, a doula shall:

27 (A)(i) Complete ten (10) hours of professional development  
 28 requirements and training over two (2) years.

29 (ii) The department, in conjunction with the Doula  
 30 Alliance of Arkansas, may adopt rules relating to the tracking by the  
 31 department of professional development and training; and

32 (B) Submit a renewal application with a renewal  
 33 application fee as determined by the department.

34 (c) The department shall create and maintain a registry of certified  
 35 community-based doulas to be made available to the public.

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1 17-108-202. Suspension, revocation, nonissuance, or nonrenewal.

2 (a) The Department of Health may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue  
3 or renew the certification of a certified community-based doula for:

4 (1) Securing a certification under this chapter through fraud or  
5 deceit;

6 (2) Unethical conduct, gross ignorance, or inefficiency in the  
7 conduct of his or her practice;

8 (3) Using a false name or an alias in his or her practice;

9 (4) Violating any provision of this chapter; or

10 (5) Failing to comply with any of the requirements for issuance  
11 of the certification.

12 (b) Proceedings under this section shall comply with the Arkansas  
13 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

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15 17-108-203. Designated doula certification organizations.

16 (a) The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Doula Alliance  
17 of Arkansas, shall establish criteria for an organization to be designated as  
18 a doula certification organization.

19 (b)(1) The department, in conjunction with the Doula Alliance of  
20 Arkansas, shall periodically review the doula certification organizations  
21 designated by the department.

22 (2) The department, in conjunction with the Doula Alliance of  
23 Arkansas, may:

24 (A) Designate additional organizations as doula  
25 certification organizations for the purpose of certifying doulas for  
26 inclusion on the registry of certified community-based doulas; and

27 (B)(i) Remove the designation of a doula certification  
28 organization previously designated.

29 (ii) If the department removes a designation, the  
30 department shall provide notice of the removal by publication on the  
31 department's website and specify the date after which a certification by the  
32 doula certification organization no longer authorizes a doula certified by  
33 the doula certification organization to be included on the certified  
34 community-based doula registry.

35 (c)(1) A doula certification organization seeking designation under  
36 this section shall provide the department with evidence that the doula

1 certification organization satisfies designation criteria established by the  
 2 department.

3 (2) If the department designates a doula certification  
 4 organization under this section, the department shall provide notice of the  
 5 designation by publication on the department’s website for the certified  
 6 community-based doula registry and specify the date after which a  
 7 certification by the doula certification organization authorizes a doula  
 8 certified by the organization to be included on the certified community-based  
 9 doula registry.

10 (d) This section does not prohibit an individual from submitting his  
 11 or her doula certification to the department without involvement of a doula  
 12 certification organization.

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 14 Subchapter 3 - Miscellaneous Provisions

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 16 17-108-301. Scope of practice.

17 A certified community-based doula under this chapter shall perform only  
 18 the following types of services:

- 19 (1) Providing childbirth education;
- 20 (2) Helping pregnant women navigate the healthcare system;
- 21 (3) Advocating for pregnant women before, during, and after the  
 22 birth of a child;
- 23 (4) Connecting pregnant women with community resources; and
- 24 (5) Supporting pregnant women with continuous emotional and  
 25 physical support throughout labor and birth and intermittently during the  
 26 prenatal and postpartum periods.

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 28 17-108-302. Patient and personal data and information.

29 (a) Patient and personal data and information accessed or attained by  
 30 a certified community-based doula under this chapter is exempt from  
 31 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq.,  
 32 and is confidential and privileged as otherwise required by federal law.

33 (b) If a certified community-based doula under this chapter does not  
 34 maintain the confidential and privileged nature of the patient data or  
 35 information, the doula shall be subject to any penalty under state and  
 36 federal law for a breach of confidential patient data or information.

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17-108-303. Certified community-based doula compensation.

(a) A certified community-based doula under this chapter shall receive compensation for services provided from:

- (1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program; and
- (2) A health benefit plan.

(b) Services described in subsection (a) of this section shall include without limitation:

- (1) Four (4) one-hour prenatal visits;
- (2) Two (2) one-hour postpartum visits;
- (3) Up to fourteen (14) hours providing support during a hospital delivery; and
- (4) Up to fifty (50) hours postpartum support during the day or night through sixteen (16) weeks.

17-108-304. Rules.

(a) The Department of Health may promulgate rules relating to the certification and regulation of certified community-based doulas under this subchapter and relating to the designation of an organization as a doula certification organization.

(b) On or before December 31, 2025, the Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules relating to the reimbursement of doulas under the Arkansas Medicaid Program.