

House Bill 263

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94th, Buckner of the 137th, McQueen of the 61st, Hugley of the 141st, Cannon of the 58th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for a pilot program to provide
3 coverage under the Medicaid program for doula care for pregnant Medicaid recipients; to
4 provide for reimbursement; to provide for doula qualifications; to provide for a report; to
5 provide for termination of the pilot project and automatic repeal; to provide for related
6 matters; to provide for contingent effectiveness upon appropriation of funds; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 medical assistance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "49-4-159.5.

13 (a) The department shall develop and implement a pilot program to provide Medicaid
14 coverage for doula care for pregnant Medicaid recipients. Such pilot program may provide
15 reimbursement for up to five doula visits for each pregnant Medicaid recipient, which may
16 include visits for prepartum care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care.

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17 (b) All doulas participating in the pilot program shall have completed appropriate training,
18 as determined by the department.

19 (c) No later than December 31, 2027, the department shall submit a detailed written report
20 on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor, the President
21 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the
22 House Committee on Health, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the House
23 Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Appropriations Committee. Such report
24 shall include the health outcomes of participants and recommendations on the best process
25 of reimbursing doulas to promote retention in the perinatal workforce. The report shall also
26 include recommendations as to expansion of the pilot program state wide.

27 (d) The pilot program created by this Code section shall terminate on January 1, 2028, and
28 this Code section shall be repealed by operation of law on such date."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 This Act shall become effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of
31 funds for purposes of this Act, as expressed in a line item making specific reference to such
32 Act in a General Appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.