

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1608

**PRINTER NO.** 3740

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

August 7, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Cephas

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1608 amends the Human Services Code (Act 21 of 1967) to provide medical assistance (MA) coverage to certified doulas for providing services to an individual covered under MA during pregnancy, labor and delivery and up to one year postpartum and to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish the Doula Advisory Board.

The bill requires DHS to establish a Doula Advisory Board to advise the Secretary of Human Services including best practices and doula participation.

The advisory board shall include:

- The secretary of DHS;
- A representative from the Department of State;
- A representative from the Office of Medical Assistance;
- A representative from the Bureau of Family Health within DOH;
- A representative from the Office of Health Equity;
- A representative from a nationally recognized doula organization;
- An OB-GYN who is a member of the PA Medical Society;
- A member of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee; and
- A member of the Pennsylvania Doula Commission.

The bill prohibits responsible third-party payers (other than Medicare plans) from refusing payment for an item or service solely on the basis that such item or service did not receive prior authorization under the third-party payer’s rules. Specifically, if the responsible third party requires prior authorization for an item or service furnished to a Medicaid-eligible individual, the responsible third party must accept the authorization provided by the state that the item or service is covered under the state plan (or waiver of such plan) for such individual, as if such authorization was made by the third party for such item or service.

This act shall take effect as follows:

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

- Creation of the Doula Advisory Board will take effect immediately.
- The addition of Section 443.15 will take effect 30 days after DHS publishes notice that the state plan amendment or federal waiver has received federal approval.
- The remainder of this legislation will take effect immediately.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Enactment of House Bill 1608 is estimated to cost \$3.4 million annually in total funds, consisting of \$1.1 million in state funds and \$2.3 million in federal funds.

The Department of Human Services estimates 3,360 pregnant women will utilize the doula services at an average cost of \$1,000 per pregnancy. The timing of adding doula services to medical assistance coverage is contingent on DHS submitting and receiving approval of a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The prohibition on third-party payers will have no fiscal impact. This prohibition is a requirement for compliance with the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.