AN ACT


The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 449.3. Medical Assistance Reimbursement for Doula Services.--(a) The department shall provide reimbursement to a certified doula for providing childbirth education and support services, including physical and emotional support, to an individual covered under the medical assistance program during pregnancy, labor and delivery and up to one year postpartum.

(b) The department shall maintain a registry of certified doulas who have met the requirements provided under subsection

...
(d) and are entitled to reimbursement under this section.

(c) Reimbursement under subsection (a) shall include reimbursement for travel time or mileage expenses in accordance with the annually scheduled rates determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

(d) To be listed on the registry of certified doulas and receive reimbursement under subsection (a), a doula shall:

(1) Receive and maintain certification by an approved national certification agency identified by the department.

(2) Obtain additional training to be reimbursed by an employer at a rate determined by the employer, focused on:

(i) Doula care for special populations.

(ii) Becoming a Medicaid participating provider.

(iii) Any additional topics as the department may require.

(3) Submit the following information to the department for the purpose of performing a background check:

(i) A report of Federal criminal history record information.

(ii) A report of criminal history record information from the Pennsylvania State Police as provided under 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 91 (relating to criminal history record information) or a statement from the Pennsylvania State Police that the Pennsylvania State Police central repository contains no information relating to the individual. The criminal history record information shall be limited to the information which is disseminated under 18 Pa.C.S. § 9121(b)(2) (relating to general regulations).

(iii) Fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police, its agent or an agent approved for fingerprinting by the Federal Government. The fingerprints may be used by the Pennsylvania State Police to conduct a criminal background check and shall be
forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal background check.

(4) Maintain personal liability insurance.

(e) The department shall:

(1) Develop a Doula Advisory Board to act as a workgroup to determine the education requirements and approved accreditation entities from which a doula may receive certification. The following shall apply:

   (i) The Doula Advisory Board shall include a diverse membership, including providers, administrators and community members, including the following:

      (A) The secretary.
      (B) A representative from the Department of State.
      (C) A representative from the Office of Medical Assistance Programs within the department.
      (D) A representative from the Bureau of Family Health within the Department of Health.
      (E) A representative from the Office of Health Equity within the Department of Health.
      (F) A representative from a nationally recognized doula organization.
      (G) Practicing doulas in this Commonwealth.
      (H) A member of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee established under the act of May 9, 2018 (P.L.118, No.24), known as the Maternal Mortality Review Act.

   (ii) The Doula Advisory Board shall be responsible for developing and updating a list that includes the approved entities from which individuals seeking doula certification may gain the necessary education requirements under subsection (d) and a list of core competencies necessary to be met through the
training curriculum. The list shall be updated on a quarterly basis and shall be published on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(iii) All departments, commissions, agencies and public authorities of the Commonwealth shall provide the Doula Advisory Board with any reasonably requested assistance or information in a timely manner in order for the Doula Advisory Board to fulfill its duties.

(iv) The Doula Advisory Board shall report the information required under this paragraph to the department on a regular basis.

(2) Set the rates of reimbursement for doula services rendered to a medical assistance enrollee.

(f) The department shall seek a State plan amendment or Federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, if needed, to allow the medical assistance program to provide coverage for doula services in accordance with this section.

(g) As used in this section, the term "doula" shall mean a professional trained to provide physical, emotional and informational support to a mother before, during and after childbirth.

Section 2. If a necessary State plan amendment or Federal waiver under section 449.3(f) of the act is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Secretary of Human Services shall transmit notice of the approval to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the addition
of section 449.3 of the act shall take effect 30 days following publication of the notice under section 2 of this act.

(2) The addition of section 449.3(e) and (f) of the act shall take effect immediately.

(3) The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.