



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-First Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2547

AHCCCS; birth outcome committee

Purpose

An emergency measure that requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) Director to appoint a Birth Outcome Committee (Committee) to explore the use of doula services for persons on Medicaid.

Background

DONA International (formally Doulas of North America-DONA), an association that began in 1992 to promote the importance of emotional support for mothers and their partners during and after birth, defines *doula* as *a trained professional who provides physical, emotional and informational support to the mother before, during and just after birth, or who provides emotional and practical support during the postpartum period* (www.dona.org).

According to the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA) a doula is *a person who attends the birthing family before, during and just after the birth of the baby*. Specifically, a doula is trained to offer emotional support and serve as a labor coach by providing comfort and information. Generally, a CAPPA certified doula meets with parents during the second and third trimesters to become acquainted with and learn about pregnancy history and prior birth experiences. A doula may help the mother feel safe and confident and develop a birth plan, teach relaxation and breathing skills, provide support to the partner and family, and assist with initial breastfeeding and preserving family privacy in the hours following birth (www.cappa.net).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires the DHS Director to appoint a Committee consisting of the following members:
 - a) the Director (or designee) of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), to serve as the Committee chairperson;
 - b) the Director (or designee) of DHS;
 - c) five members of the Arizona doula community; and
 - d) a representative from a federally funded, community based infant mortality reduction program located in an Arizona county with a population over three million persons (Maricopa).

FACT SHEET

H.B. 2547

Page 2

2. Requires the Committee to explore options for providing or using doulas to improve birth outcomes for women on Medicaid who face a disproportionately greater risk of poor birth outcomes and increased infant mortality.
3. Requires the Committee to submit a report of its findings and recommendations by November 15, 2013 to the Governor, Legislature and a copy to the Secretary of State.
4. States Committee members are not eligible for compensation or reimbursement of expenses.
5. Defines *doula* as *a birth companion who provides personal, nonmedical support to women and families throughout a woman's pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum experience.*
6. Repeals the Committee on January 1, 2014.
7. Becomes effective on signature of the Governor, if the emergency clause is enacted.

House Action

RHS	2/14/13	DP	8-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/25/13		58-2-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research
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MY/tf