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HOUSE BILL NO. 687

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 6, 2020

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-77.1, relating to doulas; certification.*

Patrons—Aird, Price, Adams, D.M., Askew, Ayala, Bagby, Bourne, Convirs-Fowler, Delaney, Hayes, Herring, Hudson, Jenkins, McQuinn, Tyler and Ward; Senator: Boysko

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-77.1 as follows:

§ 32.1-77.1. Doulas; certification.

A. As used in this section, "certified doula" means a trained, nonmedical professional certified by the Department to provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant person during the antepartum and intrapartum period and the first six weeks of the postpartum period.

B. No person shall use or assume the title "certified doula" unless he is certified by the Department in accordance with this section.

C. The Department shall adopt regulations governing the practice of certified doulas, which shall include (i) requirements for certification as a certified doula, (ii) requirements for renewal of a certificate and continuing education, (iii) appropriate application and renewal fees, and (iv) requirements and standards of practice for certified doulas.

D. The Department shall develop and regularly update a registry of certified doulas, which shall be made available to the public on a website maintained by the Department.

INTRODUCED

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