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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1008, L.D. 1523, “An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Develop MaineCare Coverage for Doula Services'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Rate determination for doula services. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall initiate a rate determination process according to the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J for the provision of doula services under the MaineCare program with a planned start for reimbursement, subject to sufficient appropriations from the Legislature, of January 1, 2028. For the purposes of this resolve, "doula services" means the provision of services to a person by a nonclinical professional related to the physical, emotional and informational support of that person throughout pregnancy, labor, birth and the postpartum period, including, but not limited to, guidance and support concerning pregnancy health, childbirth, infant feeding and newborn care.

Sec. 2. Doula council. Resolved: That the department shall establish a multidisciplinary statewide doula council to provide advice and make recommendations to the department regarding doula services, including consulting in the rate determination process pursuant to section 1. The doula council must include practicing doulas. The doula council must provide advice to the department on topics, including, but not limited to, the scope of doula services that could become eligible for reimbursement under the MaineCare program, appropriate credentials for doulas, strategies for recruiting a diverse workforce of doulas to provide services in the State, reimbursement and billing issues and outreach to the public about how to access doula services.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the department shall submit a report, no later than February 1, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with the department's progress on developing rates under section 1 and recommendations for reimbursement for doula services under the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 MaineCare program pursuant to section 2. The report must include recommendations on
2 the appropriateness of MaineCare reimbursement for doula services, a timeline for
3 implementation of rates and state plan amendments, the necessary budget requests to fund
4 the provision of doula services under the MaineCare program and a permanent structure
5 for a doula council. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
6 over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation to the 133rd
7 Legislature in 2027.'

8 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
9 number to read consecutively.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve requiring the Department of Health
12 and Human Services to initiate a rate determination process for developing rates for doula
13 services under the MaineCare program. The department shall establish a doula council to
14 provide advice on issues related to reimbursement, credentialing, recruitment, billing and
15 outreach. The department shall submit a report, no later than February 1, 2027, to the joint
16 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services
17 matters that includes the department's progress on developing rates and recommendations
18 for reimbursement of doula services under the MaineCare program. The committee is
19 authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

20 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21 **(See attached)**