

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY**

Bill No: H1333

Title: AN ACT TO EXPAND THE DOULA WORKFORCE

Sponsor(s): Rep. Chynah Tyler (*Boston*), Marjorie Decker (*Cambridge*)

Hearing Date: October 14, 2025

Reporting Deadline: December 3, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (H1154): Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Reported favorably; HWM

Similar Matters: S789 (*Miranda*); H1312 (*Tyler*)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 112: Registration of certain professions and occupations

Chapter 186 of the Acts of 2024, An Act promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options. MassHealth policies will provide coverage for doula services to pregnant and postpartum individuals up to 12 months following the end of pregnancy.

SUMMARY:

The bill adds a new section to Chapter 112 of the general laws to include a definition for “perinatal doula” (“doula”), a trained professional who provides physical, emotional, and informational support, but not medical care, for pregnant individuals, surrogates, foster care parents and adoptive parents during and after pregnancy, labor, childbirth, miscarriage, stillbirth or loss.

The bill establishes a Maternal Health Justice Fund, “the fund,” to be administered by the Department of Public Health (DPH), to manage and expand the doula workforce.

The fund will be credited with:

(i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; and (ii) funds from non-state entities, including, but not limited to gifts, grants and donations from private entities and local and federal government agencies.

Subject to availability, DPH will expend funds for:

- Compensation for DPH support staff to oversee doula workforce support efforts.
- Scholarships for individuals seeking doula certifications from approved certification programs.

- Support for agencies dedicated to maternal health care-related workforce development, doula mentorship and supervision, and fiscal management.
- Support to existing community-based doula programs.

DPH will establish and maintain a list of doula certification programs eligible for fund scholarships and will publish the list as well as scholarship application instructions on its website.