

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5739

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2023

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5739.

As amended, this bill requires hospitals that provide maternity services and birthing centers licensed in this State to adopt and maintain written policies and procedures authorizing a patient to select a doula of the patient's choice to accompany the patient within the facility's premises for the purposes of providing support before, during, and after labor and childbirth.

Under the provisions of the bill, each hospital and birthing center will be required to provide a written copy of those policies and procedures to: each health care provider providing maternity services at the facility; each patient receiving maternity services at the facility; and any other person, at the request of the patient.

Each hospital and birthing center will be required to post a summary of the facility's policies and procedures adopted pursuant to the bill on the facility's Internet website.

Each hospital and birthing center will designate a staff member to serve as a liaison between the facility and doulas and doula organizations in order to provide information concerning the facility's policies and procedures adopted pursuant to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- 1) revise the definition of "hospital"; and
- 2) only require hospitals and birthing centers to post a summary of the facility's policies and procedures on the facility's website.