



Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Memorandum: DCBS Rulemaking to implement 2025 SB 692

From: Numi Rehfield-Griffith

2025 SB 692 requires health benefit plans to cover services rendered by doulas, lactation consultants, and lactation educators for policies issued, extended or renewed on or after January 1, 2026. The legislation directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to issue “guidance” that is aligned with the rules and regulations for the qualifications and scope of practice of doulas, lactation consultants, and lactation educators as issued by the Oregon Health Authority.

In October 2025, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) notified DCBS that it was delaying its process to conduct scope of practice rulemaking for lactation consultants and lactation educators until at least March 2026. Currently, there is no guidance or regulation in place on the appropriate scope of practice for lactation professionals. There may be legislation during the 2026 short session addressing this issue.

This memorandum outlines DCBS’s plan for rules implementing 2025 SB 692 during calendar year 2026.

A. Treatment of lactation consultants and lactation educators in plan year 2026

Given that there is no existing state authority on the scope of services provided by lactation consultants or lactation educators that would be subject to this coverage mandate, DCBS will limit language in its rule effective January 1, 2026 to coverage of doula services, which have existing definitions and qualifications described in statute and rule. Legislative changes in 2026 may also include a delay in the requirement for health benefit plan coverage of lactation professionals until guidance on the scope of practice for lactation professionals is available.

B. Temporary rule to be effective on January 1, 2026

DCBS will convene a Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) to consult with stakeholders on proposed language for a temporary rule describing coverage requirements for Doulas to be effective on January 1, 2026 through June 2026. A single meeting of the RAC has been scheduled for Thursday, October 30.

C. RAC to reconvene in 2026 for consultation on permanent rules

DCBS plans to reconvene the RAC in March or April of 2026 for consultation on a permanent rule to be effective on June 1, 2026. This rule will include a statutorily required inflation adjustment for coverage limitations. If there is sufficient information to proceed with rulemaking related to coverage of lactation professionals, DCBS will also issue rules on coverage of lactation professionals for plans issued, extended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027.