Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 24-0285.01 Yelana Love x2295

HOUSE BILL 24-1262

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MATERNAL HEALTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,

102 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <u>http://leg.colorado.gov.</u>)

Current law requires "direct-entry midwives" to register with the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies before practicing. Sections 2 through 12 of the bill make changes within the direct-entry midwives practice act to update the title of these professionals to "certified professional midwives" and change the regulation from registration to licensure. Sections 21 through 31 make

HOUSE 3rd Reading Unamended April 17, 2024

> Amended 2nd Reading April 16, 2024

HOUSE

the same updates to current law in other statutes outside of the practice act.

Current law allows the state board for community colleges and occupational education to use unexpended resources from the in-demand short-term health-care credentials program (program) to expand the eligible programs that may receive support through the program. **Section 13** allows the board to expand the eligible programs to include certified professional midwives.

Section 14 requires the civil rights commission to establish certain parameters when receiving reports for maternity care. Section 15 adds pregnancy as a protected class for purposes of discrimination in places of public accommodation.

The bill adds a midwife to the environmental justice advisory board (section 16) and the governor's expert emergency epidemic response committee (section 20).

Section 17 requires a health facility that provides maternal health services to notify certain individuals before eliminating or reducing the services.

Section 18 adds midwifery as a preferred area of expertise for members of the health equity commission.

Section 19 requires the maternal mortality review committee to:

- Study closures related to perinatal health-care practices and facilities and perinatal health-care deserts and assets related to perinatal health and health-care services across the state, not limited to obstetric providers;
- Identify major outcome categories that the department of public health and environment should track over time and identify risks and opportunities;
- Explore the effects of practice and facility closures (closures) on maternal and infant health outcomes and experiences;
- Identify recommendations during closures and resultant transfers of care;
- Identify best practice guidelines during closures and resultant transfers of care; and
- Create a maternal health desert and asset map.
- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
 - **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
- 3 finds and declares that:
- 4

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(a) With the increased demand for reproductive health-care

services in the state, it is important to support the full infrastructure of
 reproductive health-care providers. This includes:

- 3 (I) Integrating the services and expertise of <u>direct-entry</u> midwives;
 4 (II) Assessing and maintaining the level of reproductive
 5 health-care services needed in a community in a way that is accessible to
 6 the community;
- 7 (III) Understanding the assets and the gaps in services at the8 county level; and
- 9 (IV) Understanding and implementing best practices for when 10 services are discontinued in a community, including providing notice 11 and a transition plan to the state in order to recognize and monitor the 12 ongoing impact to the community.
- (b) Demand for community birth options jumped 30% from 2019
 to 2020, with the majority of demand coming from Black and Latinx
 birthing people;
- 16 (c) People are choosing community birth care because they find 17 it supportive of not just their health needs but their social, spiritual, and 18 community values and needs; however, community birth facilities and 19 providers face barriers to providing care;
- 20
- (d) Patients should have the ability to choose the provider that is
 right for them, regardless of the setting. Especially for underserved Black,
 Indigenous, Asian, rural, refugee, or immigrant communities or someone
 dealing with a substance use or mental health condition, the ability to
 choose a provider that can meet their needs isn't just important, it could
 be lifesaving.
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(e) Facility and practice closures leave communities scrambling

when they close suddenly and without guidance to patients. When
 closures occur, the state must ensure that vulnerable communities are
 protected.

4 (f) The preventable maternal mortality crisis is only growing
5 worse in our state, disproportionately harming Black and Indigenous
6 people; and

7 (g) The maternal mortality review committee has made several
8 recommendations to combat this crisis, including:

9 (I) Increased access to a variety of health-care professionals, such 10 as <u>direct-entry midwives;</u>

(II) Addressing critical maternal health workforce shortages, such
as ensuring that <u>direct-entry midwives</u> can provide care at their full scope
and preventing perinatal facility and practice closures as much as
possible;

(III) Examining unintended consequences of policies and
procedures, such as exploring the impact of facility and practice closures
on Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, rural, and immigrant and refugee
communities; and

(IV) The Colorado department of public health and environment
recommends that health-care providers be trained and prepared to provide
a type of care that <u>direct-entry midwives</u> already specialize in. The
midwifery model of care exemplifies certain recommendations such as
dyad care, trauma-informed care, shared decision-making, and expertise
in safe transitions, care navigation, and wraparound services.

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26 SECTION <u>2.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 12-225-114
27 as follows:

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1 12-225-114. Repeal of article - subject to review. This article 2 225 is repealed, effective September 1, 2028. Before the repeal, the 3 registering of direct-entry midwives by the division is scheduled for 4 review in accordance with section 24-34-104. 5 6 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-305, amend 7 (1)(k) as follows: 8 Powers and duties of commission. (1) 24-34-305. The 9 commission has the following powers and duties: 10 (k) (I) To receive reports from people alleging MISTREATMENT IN 11 THE CONTEXT OF maternity care, INCLUDING CARE that is not organized 12 for, and provided to, a person who is pregnant or in the postpartum period 13 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-225-103, in a manner that is culturally 14 congruent; maintains THAT FAILS TO MAINTAIN the person's dignity, 15 privacy, and confidentiality; ensures THAT FAILS TO ENSURE freedom from 16 harm and mistreatment; and enables THAT FAILS TO ENABLE informed 17 choices and continuous support. 18 (II) REPORTS SHALL BE COLLECTED IN A WAY TO ENSURE THAT: 19 (A) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CAN BE DE-IDENTIFIED; 20 **(B)** INDIVIDUALS CAN IDENTIFY MISTREATMENT THEY 21 EXPERIENCED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING MISTREATMENT INDEX 22 CATEGORIES: PHYSICAL ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE, VERBAL ABUSE, STIGMA 23 AND DISCRIMINATION, FAILURE TO MEET PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF 24 CARE, OR POOR RAPPORT BETWEEN PATIENTS OR CLIENTS AND PROVIDERS; 25 POOR CONDITIONS AND CONSTRAINTS PRESENTED BY THE HEALTH-CARE 26 SYSTEM; AND OBSTETRIC RACISM; 27 (C) NUMBERS OF REPORTS BASED ON TYPOLOGY CAN BE

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1 GENERATED AND SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC AND OTHER AGENCIES;

2 (D) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY IDENTIFY ANY PROTECTED CLASS THE
3 INDIVIDUAL MAY BE PART OF AND THAT MAY HAVE FACTORED INTO THE
4 INDIVIDUAL'S MISTREATMENT;

5 (E) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY INDICATE WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DONE
6 DIFFERENTLY TO IMPROVE THE INDIVIDUAL'S SITUATION;

7 (F) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY ENTER NARRATIVE INFORMATION IN THE
8 INDIVIDUAL'S OWN WORDS; AND

9 (G) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY VOLUNTARILY SHARE THE INDIVIDUAL'S
10 CONTACT INFORMATION AND INDICATE WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL
11 CONSENTS TO BEING CONTACTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY
12 AGENCIES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

(III) THE COMMISSION SHALL GENERATE DE-IDENTIFIED
COMPOSITE INFORMATION BASED ON REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
THIS SUBSECTION (1)(k). NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I),
NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2025, AND NO LATER THAN JULY 1 EVERY THREE
YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SHARE THE GENERATED
DE-IDENTIFIED COMPOSITE INFORMATION WITH:

19 (A) THE COLORADO MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE
20 CREATED IN SECTION 25-52-104 (1);

(B) THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEALTH AND HUMAN
services committee and the senate health and human services
committee, or their successor committees; and

24 (C) THE MATERNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE DEFINED IN SECTION
25 25.5-4-506 (1)(b).

26 (IV) REPORTS MAY BE SHARED INTERNALLY WITH STAFF FOR
27 STUDY, INVESTIGATION, REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, OR HEARINGS.

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2 SECTION <u>4.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-134, amend
3 (2)(c)(IV) as follows:

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25-1-134. Environmental justice - ombudsperson - advisory
board - grant program - definitions - repeal. (2) Environmental
justice advisory board. (c) The advisory board consists of the following
twelve members who, to the extent practicable, must reside in different
geographic areas of the state, reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the
state, and have experience with a range of environmental issues, including
air pollution, water contamination, and public health impacts:

(IV) Four voting members appointed by the executive director of
the department, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM MUST BE A MIDWIFE WHO IS
PRACTICING IN A FREESTANDING BIRTH CENTER, IN A RURAL AREA, OR AS
A HOME BIRTH PROVIDER.

15 SECTION <u>5.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 25-3-131 as
16 follows:

17 25-3-131. Maternal health-care services - discontinuation
18 - required notifications - <u>definition - repeal.</u> (1) <u>Except as provided</u>
19 <u>IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, AT</u> LEAST NINETY DAYS BEFORE A
20 HOSPITAL PROVIDING MATERNAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES OR A BIRTH
21 CENTER MAY DISCONTINUE SUCH SERVICES, THE FACILITY SHALL PROVIDE
22 NOTICE TO:

(a) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING HEALTH FACILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION
25 25-3-101;

26 (b) THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE, CREATED IN SECTION 25-1.5-403;
27 (c) THE GOVERNOR;

1 (d) ALL PATIENTS RECEIVING MATERNAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES 2 AT THE FACILITY AS OF THE DATE OF THE NOTICE; 3 (e) ALL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS THAT PROVIDE MATERNAL 4 HEALTH-CARE SERVICES FOR THE FACILITY AS OF THE DATE OF THE 5 NOTICE; AND 6 (f) THE GENERAL PUBLIC. 7 (2) THE NOTICE REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION 8 MUST INCLUDE: 9 (a) A DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERNAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES 10 BEING DISCONTINUED; 11 (b) THE RATE THE MATERNAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES HAD BEEN 12 PROVIDED AT IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; 13 THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS (c) 14 IMPACTED; 15 (d) THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR TRANSITIONING PATIENTS TO NEW 16 HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS; AND 17 (e) THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR TRANSITIONING THE HEALTH-CARE 18 PROVIDERS TO NEW POSITIONS. 19 (3) (a) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, A FACILITY SHALL 20 PROVIDE THE NOTICE REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ON 21 THE DAY A DEFINITIVE PLAN FOR ALTERNATIVE PATIENT CARE HAS BEEN 22 ARRANGED OR WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN 23 IDENTIFIED, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER. 24 (b) This subsection (3) does not apply in the event of an 25 EMERGENCY COVERED BY RULES PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF 26 PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT IF SUCH EMERGENCY AFFECTS THE 27 PHYSICAL SPACE OF THE FACILITY AND NECESSITATES THE REMOVAL OF

1	CLIENTS, EMPLOYEES, OR CONTRACTORS FROM THE FACILITY.
2	(4) AS USED IN THIS <u>SECTION:</u>
3	(a) "Emergency" means a sudden and unforeseen
4	CIRCUMSTANCE OR FINANCIAL IMPEDIMENT THAT WOULD INHIBIT A
5	HOSPITAL'S ABILITY TO SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY OPERATE A MATERNAL
6	HEALTH-CARE SERVICE.
7	(b) "MATERNAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES" MEANS HEALTH-CARE
8	SERVICES PROVIDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL REGARDING CARE RELATED TO THE
9	INDIVIDUAL'S PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, AND POSTPARTUM PERIOD.
10	(5) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.
11	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2206, amend
12	(2)(a)(III) introductory portion and (2)(a)(III)(J); and add (2)(a)(III)(J.5)
13	as follows:
14	25-4-2206. Health equity commission - creation - repeal.
15	(2)(a) The commission consists of the following twenty-three members,
16	who are as follows:
17	(III) The executive director of the department shall appoint ten
18	members who represent, to the extent practical, Colorado's diverse ethnic,
19	racial, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability,
20	aging population, socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds. Each
21	person INDIVIDUAL appointed to the commission must have demonstrated
22	expertise in at least one, and preferably two, of the following areas:
23	(J) Behavioral health; or
24	(J.5) MIDWIFERY; OR
25	SECTION <u>7.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-52-104, amend
26	(2)(b)(II); and add (5.5) as follows:
27	25-52-104. Colorado maternal mortality review committee -

creation - members - duties - report to the general assembly - repeal.
 (2) (b) In appointing members to the committee, the executive director
 shall:

4 (II) Ensure that committee members represent diverse 5 communities and a variety of clinical, forensic, and psychosocial 6 specializations and community perspectives, INCLUDING 7 COMMUNITY-BASED MIDWIFERY; and

8 (5.5) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT
9 THIRD-PARTY EVALUATOR TO:

10 (a) STUDY CLOSURES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND ACQUISITIONS
11 RELATED TO PERINATAL HEALTH-CARE PRACTICES AND FACILITIES AND
12 PERINATAL STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS,
13 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-402 (11), AND ASSETS AND DEFICITS
14 RELATED TO PERINATAL HEALTH AND HEALTH-CARE SERVICES ACROSS THE
15 STATE, NOT LIMITED TO OBSTETRIC PROVIDERS;

16 (b) IDENTIFY MAJOR OUTCOME CATEGORIES AT THE CLINICAL,
17 FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PROVIDER LEVELS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
18 SHOULD TRACK OVER TIME AND IDENTIFY RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES
19 RELATED TO CLOSURES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND ACQUISITIONS OF
20 PERINATAL HEALTH-CARE PRACTICES AND FACILITIES;

(c) EXPLORE THE EFFECTS OF PRACTICE AND FACILITY CLOSURES
ON MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH OUTCOMES AND EXPERIENCES, TO
ILLUSTRATE STRUCTURAL NEEDS AROUND CLOSURES, WHEN APPLICABLE;
(d) IDENTIFY RECOMMENDATIONS DURING PRACTICE AND FACILITY
CLOSURES AND RESULTANT TRANSFERS OF CARE. THE DEPARTMENT OR
THIRD PARTY EVALUATOR MAY USE BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA
IN MAKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OR THIRD PARTY

EVALUATOR SHALL USE THE MAP CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
 (5.5)(f) OF THIS SECTION IN DEVELOPING THE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE
 RECOMMENDATIONS MUST:

4 (I) INCLUDE SOLUTIONS AT THE FACILITY LEVEL, THE PRACTICE
5 LEVEL, THE WORKFORCE LEVEL, THE COMMUNITY LEVEL, AND THE
6 PATIENT LEVEL;

7 (II) INCLUDE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING ON
8 CLOSURES, INCLUDING METRICS ON TIMELINES AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA,
9 INCLUDING WHETHER THE TIMELINE CREATED IN SECTION 25-3-131 IS
10 APPROPRIATE;

(III) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
 DATA COLLECTION RELATED TO CLOSURES AND RESULTANT TRANSFERS OF
 CARE.

14 (e) IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES DURING PRACTICE AND 15 FACILITY CLOSURES AND RESULTANT TRANSFERS OF CARE. THE THIRD 16 PARTY EVALUATOR MAY USE BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DATA IN 17 IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES. THE THIRD PARTY 18 EVALUATOR SHALL USE THE MAP CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 19 (5.5)(f) OF THIS SECTION IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES. THE GUIDELINES 20 MUST CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AREAS: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES; 21 TRANSFERS OF CARE: COMMUNITY NOTICE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES: 22 NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT; CLOSURE TIMELINE; AND RESOURCES 23 NEEDED BY FACILITIES, PROVIDERS, AND FAMILIES.

(f) CREATE A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA AND
PERINATAL HEALTH SERVICES ASSETS AND DEFICITS ASSET MAP THAT
IDENTIFIES BY PERINATAL SERVICE AREA:

27 (I) PRIMARY HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING PHYSICIANS

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AND MIDWIVES OF ALL CREDENTIAL TYPES WHO PROVIDE OR COULD BE
 PROVIDING PERINATAL HEALTH CARE;

3 (II) THE TYPE AND LOCATION OF PERINATAL HEALTH CARE
4 OFFERED BY THE PROVIDERS LISTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5.5)(f)(I)
5 OF THIS SECTION;

6 (III) COMMUNITY-BASED PERINATAL HEALTH-CARE WORKERS,
7 SUCH AS DOULAS, CHILDBIRTH EDUCATORS, AND LACTATION SUPPORT
8 CONSULTANTS; AND

9 (IV) RESOURCES SUCH AS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES, GATHERING
10 PLACES, AND EDUCATIONAL HUBS;

(g) By July 1, 2026, deliver the best practices and
Recommendations created pursuant to this subsection (5.5) to
The house of representatives health and human services
committee and the senate health and human services committee,
or their successor committees.

SECTION <u>8.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-704.5,
amend (1)(b)(II)(G) and (1)(b)(II)(H); and add (1)(b)(II)(I) as follows:
24-33.5-704.5. Governor's expert emergency epidemic
response committee - creation. (1) (b) (II) In addition to the state
members of the committee, the governor shall appoint to the committee
an individual from each of the following categories:

(G) A wildlife disease specialist with the division of wildlife; and
(H) A pharmacist member of the state board of pharmacy; AND
(I) A MIDWIFE WITH EXPERIENCE IN OUT-OF-HOSPITAL BIRTHS.

26 SECTION <u>9.</u> Appropriation. (1) For the 2024-25 state fiscal
 27 year, \$328,946 is appropriated to the department of public health and

25

environment for use by the prevention services division. This
 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the division
 may use this appropriation for maternal and child health related to
 community health, which amount is based on an assumption that the
 division will require an additional 0.8 FTE.

6 (2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$118,771 is appropriated to 7 the department of regulatory agencies. This appropriation consists of 8 \$111,072 from the general fund and \$7,699 from the division of 9 professions and occupations cash fund created in 12-20-105 (3), C.R.S. 10 To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as 11 follows:

(a) \$54,717 from general fund for use by the civil rights division
for personal services, which amount is based on an assumption that the
division will require an additional 1.0 FTE;

(b) \$7,950 from general fund for use by the civil rights division
for operating expenses;

(c) \$7,669 from the division of professions and occupations cash
fund for use by the division of professions and occupations, which
amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an
additional 0.1 FTE;

21 (d) \$32,005 from general fund for the purchase of legal services;
22 and

(e) \$16,400 from general fund for the purchase of information
technology services.

(3) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$32,005 is appropriated to
 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds
 received from the department of regulatory agencies under subsection

(2)(d) of this section and is based on an assumption that the department
 of law will require an additional 0.1 FTE. To implement this act, the
 department of law may use this appropriation to provide legal services for
 the department of regulatory agencies.

5 (4) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$16,400 is appropriated to 6 the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology. 7 This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the 8 department of regulatory agencies under subsection (2)(e) of this section. 9 To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation to provide 10 information technology services for the department of regulatory 11 agencies.

12 SECTION <u>10.</u> Safety clause. The general assembly finds, 13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate 14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for 15 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state 16 institutions.