

Concise Explanatory Statement

Summary of comments and agency responses regarding for birth doula filed under WSR 24-23-062 impacting WAC 246-835-040 to remove certification barriers and update rule to align with recent legislation.

Background

The Department of Health (department) is adopting amendments to WAC 246-835-040 to implement RCW 18.130.077, removing barriers and shortening the credentialing process. Specifically, the department is adopting revisions to WAC 246-835-040 to waive education and exam requirements as directed and allowed under the statute. To comply with this bill, the department is adopting rule amendments that:

- Remove the requirement of submitting proof of 10 hours of continuing education (CE) for out-of-state applicants that have been credentialed as a birth doula in another state or jurisdiction with standards that are substantially equivalent to Washington's standards.
- Maintain the requirement of submitting proof of 10 hours of CE for out-of-state applicants who have been credentialed for more than two years, if they have been credentialed in a state or jurisdiction that does not have standards that are substantially equivalent to Washington.
- Clarify in rule that applicants who have been credentialed for less than two years in a state or jurisdiction with standards that are not substantially equivalent may apply for certification through the initial application pathway in WAC 246-835-030.

The rule implements the intent of RCW 18.130.077 by removing barriers to entering and remaining in the health care workforce and shortening the credentialing process.

General Comments and Recommendations

No comments received regarding the adopted rules.