

ASSEMBLY, No. 5558

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

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District 37 (Bergen)

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District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for suicidal ideation and attempted suicide for postpartum women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/5/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning suicidal ideation for postpartum women and
2 supplementing P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.).
3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
6

7 1. (New section) a. A carrier shall provide coverage for
8 expenses incurred in the treatment of suicidal ideation and
9 attempted suicide for a woman who is within the postpartum period.

10 b. As used in this section:

11 "Attempted suicide" means destructive behavior intended by an
12 individual to result in that individual's harm or death.

13 "Carrier" means an insurance company, health service
14 corporation, hospital service corporation, medical service
15 corporation, or health maintenance organization authorized to issue
16 health benefits plans in this State, and shall include the State Health
17 Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits
18 Program.

19 "Postpartum period" means one year after childbirth.

20 "Suicidal ideation" means thinking about, considering, or
21 making plans for suicide.
22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all
24 health benefits plans currently in effect in the State, or that are
25 delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State, or approved for
26 issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking
27 and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act.
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32 This bill requires health insurance carriers (health, hospital and
33 medical service corporations; health maintenance organizations; and
34 insurance companies), as well as the State and School Employees'
35 Health Benefits Programs, to provide coverage for expenses
36 incurred in the treatment of suicidal ideation and attempted suicide
37 for a woman who is within the postpartum period. The bill defines
38 the postpartum period to be one year after childbirth. Currently,
39 insurance carriers are not specifically required to provide coverage
40 for suicidal ideation.

41 The bill takes effect immediately and applies to all health benefit
42 plans currently in effect in the State, or that are delivered, issued,
43 executed or renewed in this State, or approved for issuance or
44 renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and
45 Insurance, on or after the effective date of the bill.

46 Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among postpartum
47 women. Recent findings indicate that the prevalence of suicidal
48 ideation among postpartum women has risen in recent years. In
49 addition, some findings even indicate that suicides may account for
50 up to twenty percent of postpartum deaths.