

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 705

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Testa, O'Scanlon, Codey, Greenstein, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywomen Timberlake, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman Daniels, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblymen Benson, Stanley, Conaway, Assemblywomen Lopez, Lampitt and Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to develop and implement plan to improve access to perinatal mood and anxiety disorder screening.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on September 14, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

1 **AN ACT** concerning mental health and supplementing Title 26 of
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Health shall develop and implement a
8 plan to improve access to ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal mood
9 and anxiety disorder¹ screening, referral, treatment, and support
10 services.

11 b. The plan shall provide strategies to:

12 (1) increase awareness among mental health care service providers
13 who treat women experiencing ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal
14 mood and anxiety disorders¹ with regard to the prevalence and effects
15 of ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal mood and anxiety disorders¹ on
16 women and children;

17 (2) establish a referral network of mental health care providers and
18 support services for women who are in need of ¹**postpartum**
19 **depression** perinatal mood and anxiety disorder¹ treatment;

20 (3) increase women's access to formal and informal peer support
21 services, including access to certified peer specialists who have
22 received training related to ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal mood
23 and anxiety disorders¹;

24 (4) raise public awareness for, and reduce the stigma related to,
25 ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal mood and anxiety disorders¹; and

26 (5) provide available funds to ¹**postpartum depression** perinatal
27 mood and anxiety disorder¹ screening, referral, treatment, and support
28 services.

29

30 2. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
31 regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
32 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate
33 the provisions of this act.

34

35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted September 14, 2020.