STATE OF NEW YORK

790

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law and the public health law, in relation to veteran maternity care; to repeal certain provisions of the veterans' services law relating thereto; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law and the public health law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 3 of section 19 of the veterans' services law is amended to read as follows:

(c) liaison between the department, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs center for women veterans, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, state veterans nursing homes, state agencies, community groups, advocates and other veterans and military organizations and interested parties **and, as it pertains to the veteran maternity care program established pursuant to section twenty-nine-c of this article, the commissioners of health and mental health, hospitals, federal, state, and local health officials, obstetricians, midwives, pediatricians, veterans and veterans advocates**;

§ 2. Section 29-b of the veterans' services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law and the public health law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, is renumbered section 29-c and subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of such section are amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1. Serving as a liaison between the United States department of veterans affairs (VA) including VA maternity care coordinators located in the state, the department of health and the office of mental health to facilitate better coordination of veteran maternity care in the state and cooperation in addressing issues related to veteran reproductive mental health care;

2. [~~Providing~~] **Disseminating available** information to maternity care providers and expectant veterans regarding identifying and treating common mental and physical conditions experienced by veterans that can heighten the risk of pregnancy complications;

3. Providing guidance and referral information on maternity care and benefits available to veterans including the VA's maternity care coordination program at all events including but not limited to, seminars required under subdivision six of section four of this article;

4. [~~Developing a system for rapid consultation and referral linkage services for obstetricians and primary care providers statewide who provide care for expectant veterans with service-connected disabilities that may impact a veteran's maternal health;~~

~~5.~~] Providing [~~guidance on the identification of~~] **resources on identifying the** signs and symptoms of mental health conditions in expectant veterans to maternity care providers;

[~~6.~~] **5.** Raising awareness among maternity care providers of the federal Veterans Community Care Program established pursuant to 38 U.S.C § 1703 and considering ways to encourage and incentivize participation in such program. The coordinator shall make information relevant to such providers available on the department's website, including but not limited to, links to [~~the~~] any continuing medical education material or courses for non-department medical professionals provided on the internet website of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 123 of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (P.L.115-182);

§ 3. Subdivisions 7, 8, 9 of section 29-c of the veterans' services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, and such section as renumbered by section two of this act, are REPEALED.

§ 4. Subparagraphs (iv), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 2509-d of the public health law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law and the public health law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, are amended to read as follows:

(iv) validated, evidence-based tools for screening the conditions listed in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph; **and**

[~~(vi)~~] **(v)** information about follow-up support for patients who may require further evaluation, referral, or treatment including, when available, information about specific community resources and entities licensed by the office of mental health[~~; and~~

~~(vii) information on engaging support for the veteran, which may include communicating with the other parent of the child and other family members, as appropriate and consistent with patient confidentiality~~].

§ 5. Section 5 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law and the public health law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as

proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 5. This act shall take effect [~~on the ninetieth day~~] one year after it shall have become a law.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, sections one, two, three and four of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the veterans' services law and the public health law relating to establishing a maternity care coordination program for pregnant and postpartum veterans, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 9259 and A. 8162-A, takes effect.