S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by Sen. MORAHAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to postpartum depression

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2507 to read as follows:

S 2507. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES FOR CARE. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE AND THE STATE BOARD FOR NURSING, SHALL WORK WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE STATE TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

1. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING PRENATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL PROVIDE EDUCATION TO WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES ABOUT POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION IN ORDER TO LOWER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NEW MOTHERS WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER FROM THIS ILLNESS IN SILENCE;

2. ALL BIRTHING FACILITIES IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE DEPARTING NEW MOTHERS AND FATHERS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION, INCLUDING ITS SYMPTOMS, METHODS OF COPING WITH THE ILLNESS AND TREATMENT RESOURCES;

3. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING POSTNATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL SCREEN NEW MOTHERS FOR POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO DISCHARGE FROM THE BIRTHING FACILITY AND AT THE FIRST FEW POSTNATAL CHECK-UP VISITS; AND

4. PHYSICIANS, NURSE MIDWIVES AND OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE TO WOMEN SHALL INCLUDE FATHERS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE, IN BOTH THE EDUCATION

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

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AND TREATMENT PROCESSES TO HELP SUCH PERSONS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION SO THAT THEY, TOO, CAN OVERCOME THE SPILLOVER EFFECT OF THE ILLNESS AND IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE NEW MOTHER.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.