

STATE OF NEW YORK

9102

IN ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to require the office of mental health and the department of health to conduct a study on the disparate impacts regarding postpartum depression screening tests

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

- 1 Section 1. 1. The office of mental health, in conjunction with the
2 department of health and any other department or experts within the
3 maternal health field shall conduct a comprehensive study and prepare a
4 report on the differential impacts of postpartum depression screening
5 measures in relation to black women, brown women and birthing people.
6 This study shall examine what additional questions or tools could be
7 implemented to minimize disparities found within the current screening
8 protocols. The data collected shall only be utilized as authorized under
9 state and federal law to inform the state's efforts to advance the
10 maternal health scope for birthing people, in relation to providing fair
11 and equal medical care.
- 12 2. The purpose of this study shall be to:
- 13 (a) identify any racial disparities within protocols and screening
14 measures for postpartum depression; and
15 (b) review current protocols and screening measures used to identify
16 postpartum depression and overall birthing people's health after birth.
- 17 3. This study shall research and identify questions to be used within
18 postpartum depression screenings to detect, at a minimum, the following:
- 19 (a) stress around food scarcity within the home;
20 (b) financial stressors;
21 (c) quality of sleep;
22 (d) quality of health;
23 (e) substance abuse issues;
24 (f) additional maternal depression disorders, including but not limit-
25 ed to perinatal and postpartum mood disorders, postpartum anxiety, post-
26 partum psychosis;

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

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1 (g) symptoms of isolation, including but not limited to symptoms
2 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

3 (h) different family structures and possible causes of stressors that
4 could result from such family structures.

5 4. Not later than one year after the effective date of this act, the
6 commissioners of the office of mental health and department of health
7 shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president of
8 the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the
9 senate and the minority leader of the assembly, a report of the study's
10 findings, together with specific recommendations for minimizing existing
11 barriers and maximizing new techniques and tests to better aid postpar-
12 tum depression testing and other maternal health testing and/or screen-
13 ing.

14 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.