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:

Section 1. 1. The office of mental health, in conjunction with the department of health and any other department or experts within the maternal health field shall conduct a comprehensive study and prepare a report on the differential impacts of postpartum depression screening measures in relation to black women, brown women and birthing people. This study shall examine what additional questions or tools could be implemented to minimize disparities found within the current screening protocols. The data collected shall only be utilized as authorized under state and federal law to inform the state's efforts to advance the maternal health scope for birthing people, in relation to providing fair and equal medical care.

2. The purpose of this study shall be to:

(a) identify any racial disparities within protocols and screening measures for postpartum depression; and

(b) review current protocols and screening measures used to identify postpartum depression and overall birthing people's health after birth.

3. This study shall research and identify questions to be used within postpartum depression screenings to detect, at a minimum, the following:

(a) stress around food scarcity within the home;

(b) financial stressors;

(c) quality of sleep;

(d) quality of health;

(e) substance abuse issues;

(f) additional maternal depression disorders, including but not limited to perinatal and postpartum mood disorders, postpartum anxiety, postpartum psychosis;

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

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

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

4. Not later than one year after the effective date of this act, the commissioners of the office of mental health and department of health shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly, a report of the study's findings, together with specific recommendations for minimizing existing barriers and maximizing new techniques and tests to better aid postpartum depression testing and other maternal health testing and/or screening.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.