

STATE OF NEW YORK

1025

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the commissioner of health to consult with the office of addiction services and supports to publish certain guidance on maternal depression screenings, and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to maternal depression screenings, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2039-B and A. 2870-B, 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. Subdivision 3 of section 2500-k of the public health law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health law relating to maternal depression screenings, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2039-B and A. 2870-B, is amended to read as follows:

3. Maternal depression screenings. (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the office of mental health, the office of addiction services and supports, and other relevant stakeholders as determined by the commissioner, shall ~~[develop and]~~ publish guidance ~~[and standards]~~ for incorporating maternal depression screenings into routine perinatal care. This guidance shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations and best practices related to:

(i) when maternal health care providers should initiate maternal depression screenings and how often such screenings should be repeated throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period;

(ii) screening for social needs that may contribute to maternal depression such as social support, intimate partner violence, food and housing insecurity, diaper insecurity, and barriers to appropriate healthcare;

(iii) screening for substance use disorders;

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

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1 (iv) referrals for appropriate follow-up evaluation, diagnosis, and
2 treatment; and

3 (v) reimbursement methodologies to incentivize provider participation.

4 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the office of mental
5 health, the office of addiction services and supports, and other rele-
6 vant stakeholders as determined by the commissioner, shall identify
7 existing information and training programs designed to ~~[support]~~ inform
8 providers in an effort to promote maternal depression screening and
9 treatment, and publish the links to such information and training
10 programs on the department's website. The identified information and
11 training programs shall include the following topics:

12 (i) health equity;

13 (ii) implicit bias and cultural competency;

14 (iii) screening, referral and treatment options;

15 (iv) patient resources and available services;

16 (v) patients' rights;

17 (vi) pharmacotherapy;

18 (vii) trauma-informed, patient-centered care; and

19 (viii) other topics as identified by the commissioner.

20 § 2. Section 3 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public
21 health law relating to maternal depression screenings, as proposed in
22 legislative bills numbers S. 2039-B and A. 2870-B, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 § 3. This act shall take effect ~~[on the one hundred eightieth day]~~
25 eighteen months after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately,
26 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
27 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
28 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

29 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
30 section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the
31 same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 amending the public health
32 law relating to maternal depression screenings, as proposed in legisla-
33 tive bills numbers S. 2039-B and A. 2870-B, takes effect.