STATE OF NEW YORK

7273

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN, ALVAREZ, REYES, SLATER, SEAWRIGHT, ZACCARO, LEVENBERG, DAVILA, HYNDMAN, LUCAS, FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a public awareness campaign for maternal depression; to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the maternal depression fund; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. Article 25 of the public health law is amended by adding a new title 7-a to read as follows:

TITLE VII-A

MATERNAL DEPRESSION

Section 2597. Public awareness campaign for maternal depression.

§ 2597. Public awareness campaign for maternal depression. There is hereby established within the department a maternal depression awareness program to educate the public and maternal health care providers about the risks and remedies associated with maternal depression.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-n to read as follows:

§ 97-n. Maternal depression fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance a fund to be known as the "maternal depression fund".

2. The fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for its purpose, and all moneys transferred to such fund pursuant to law, contributions consisting of promises or grants of any money or property of any kind or value, or any other thing of value, including grants or other financial assistance from any agency of government and all moneys required by the provisions of this section or any other law to be paid into or credited to this fund.

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

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3. The moneys of the fund shall be made available to the department of health for the purpose of implementing the provisions of title seven-a of article twenty-five of the public health law.

4. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of health.

§ 3. The sum of twenty million dollars ($20,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the department of health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of health in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.