

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 784

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

HEALTH: Provides relative to universal perinatal mood disorder screening for primary care doctors

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XIII of Chapter 5-B of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 40:1125.1 through 1125.6, relative to perinatal mental health
4 policy; to provide for furnishing of certain information by hospitals and birthing
5 centers that provide labor and delivery services; to provide for perinatal mood
6 disorder screening; to provide for treatment; to provide for reimbursement; to
7 provide for collaborative care; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Part XIII of Chapter 5-B of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
10 comprised of R.S. 40:1125.1 through 1125.6, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 Part XIII. PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

12 §1125.1. Short title

13 This Part shall be known and may be cited as "The Perinatal Mood and
14 Anxiety Disorders Act".

15 §1125.2. Awareness

16 In accordance with this Part, all hospitals and birthing centers that provide
17 labor and delivery services shall, prior to discharge following pregnancy, provide
18 pregnant women and their family members information about postpartum depression,
19 including its symptoms, treatment, and available resources. The Louisiana
20 Department of Health bureau of family, in cooperation with the office of behavioral

1 health, shall make such information available to hospitals and birthing centers and
2 shall include this information on the department's website.

3 §1125.3. Screening; continuing Medicaid coverage

4 A. Healthcare providers who provide postnatal care to women up to twelve
5 months following the birth shall screen for the signs and symptoms of postpartum
6 depression or related mental health disorders through a validated screening tool in
7 accordance with the recommendations from the American College of Obstetricians
8 and Gynecologists.

9 B. Healthcare providers who are providing pediatric care to an infant shall
10 screen the caregiver for the presence of perinatal mood and anxiety disorder through
11 a validated screening tool at one, two, four, and six-month intervals, in accordance
12 with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, in order to
13 ensure that the health and well-being of the infant are not compromised by
14 undiagnosed postpartum depression or related mental health disorders in the birth
15 mother. With the birth mother's consent, the healthcare provider shall share the
16 results with the birth mother's primary healthcare provider or mental health care
17 provider of her choice, unless the healthcare provider determines the birth mother
18 presents an acute danger to herself, the infant, or another, in which case her consent
19 shall not be required.

20 C. Pregnant women receiving Louisiana Medicaid benefits shall continue to
21 be eligible for all pregnancy-related and postpartum benefits for sixty days following
22 the last day of the pregnancy. In accordance with this Part, such women who are
23 receiving mental health treatment for postpartum depression or related mental health
24 conditions within sixty days of giving birth shall, subject to appropriations and
25 federal approval, be eligible for benefits for mental health services for the treatment
26 of postpartum depression and related mental health conditions for up to twelve
27 additional months.

28 §1125.4. Screening; reimbursement

1 A. Maternal depression screenings shall be reimbursable using the Current
2 Procedural Technology and Health Care Common Procedure Coding System codes
3 96160, 96161, G8431, and G8510 when using one or more of the following validated
4 screening tools:

- 5 (1) Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale.
6 (2) Perinatal Grief Intensity Scale.
7 (3) Postpartum Depression Screening Scale.
8 (4) Patient Health Questionnaire 9.
9 (5) Beck Depression Inventory II.
10 (6) Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale.
11 (7) Zinged Self-Rating Depression Scale.

12 B. These screenings are reimbursable up to three times when a woman is
13 pregnant or after a perinatal loss, including stillbirth, miscarriage or neonatal death,
14 that occurs during her Medicaid coverage period, and up to five times postpartum
15 until the child is twelve months of age. Any screenings that occur prior to the birth
16 of the child or after a perinatal loss shall be billed under the woman's third-party
17 insurance or Medicaid identification number. Any screening that occurs after the
18 child is born is considered an Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment
19 benefit per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidance and should be
20 billed under the infant's Medicaid identification number, using CPT code 96161. If
21 the child does not have an assigned Medicaid identification number, CPT code
22 96161 can be billed under the mother's Medicaid identification number for up to 45
23 days postpartum. Rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers may
24 perform these screenings and list this on their claims.

25 §1125.5. Treatment; access to perinatal mental health providers

26 A. The Louisiana Department of Health, office of behavioral health in
27 collaboration with the bureau of family health shall develop and disseminate a
28 database of providers who treat or provide support for maternal mood and anxiety
29 disorders and substance use disorders, including mental health professionals, other

1 licensed professionals, peer support, not-for-profit corporations and other community
2 resources.

3 B. The list required by Subsection A of this Section shall be made available
4 to the public on the department's website and have all of the following features:

5 (1) Searchable by zip code.

6 (2) Updates to the list of providers as necessary.

7 (3) Within existing appropriations.

8 C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall ensure adequate investment in
9 treatment resources for maternal mood and anxiety disorders and substance use
10 disorders.

11 §1125.6. Treatment; reimbursement

12 A shortage of perinatal mental health providers who accept Medicaid is a
13 public health issue of concern in this state and has resulted in a shortage of quality
14 providers for Medicaid recipients. Louisiana's Medicaid Program is hereby
15 authorized to take action as appropriate to increase the number of Medicaid providers
16 through means including but not limited to assessing Medicaid enrollment
17 accessibility and current reimbursement practices and barriers to perinatal mental
18 health providers being deemed as Medicaid providers.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 784 Original

2022 Regular Session

Duplessis

Abstract: Establishes the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders Act to improve awareness, screening, and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

Proposed law provides for awareness of all hospitals and birthing centers that provide labor and delivery services.

Proposed law requires screening from healthcare providers who are providing postnatal care to women up to twelve months following the birth.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health office of behavioral health, in collaboration with the Bureau of Family Health, to develop and disseminate a database of providers who treat or provide support for maternal mood and anxiety disorders and substance use disorders.

Proposed law provides for screening and treatment reimbursement.

(Adds R.S. 40:1125.1-1125.6)