2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 784

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

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

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

Part XIII. PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

§1125.1. Short title

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

§1125.2. Awareness

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

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
health, shall make such information available to hospitals and birthing centers and
shall include this information on the department's website.

§1125.3. Screening; continuing Medicaid coverage

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

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

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

§1125.4. Screening; reimbursement
A. Maternal depression screenings shall be reimbursable using the Current Procedural Technology and Health Care Common Procedure Coding System codes 96160, 96161, G8431, and G8510 when using one or more of the following validated screening tools:

1. Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale.
2. Perinatal Grief Intensity Scale.
3. Postpartum Depression Screening Scale.
5. Beck Depression Inventory II.
6. Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale.

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

§1125.5. Treatment; access to perinatal mental health providers

A. The Louisiana Department of Health, office of behavioral health in collaboration with the bureau of family health shall develop and disseminate a database of providers who treat or provide support for maternal mood and anxiety disorders and substance use disorders, including mental health professionals, other
licensed professionals, peer support, not-for-profit corporations and other community
resources.

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

(1) Searchable by zip code.

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

(3) Within existing appropriations.

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

§1125.6. Treatment; reimbursement

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