

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to perinatal mental health; providing
3 a short title; creating s. 383.014, F.S.; requiring
4 the Department of Health to establish and maintain a
5 toll-free hotline accessible to the general public and
6 a toll-free hotline accessible to health care
7 providers; requiring the department to create public
8 service announcements to educate the public on
9 perinatal mental health care; requiring the department
10 to encourage certain health care providers to attend
11 continuing medical education courses on perinatal
12 mental health care; amending s. 383.318, F.S.;
13 revising components that are included in the
14 postpartum evaluation and followup care provided by
15 birth centers to include a mental health screening and
16 the provision of certain information on postpartum
17 depression; amending s. 395.1053, F.S.; encouraging
18 hospitals that provide birthing services to provide
19 the same postpartum evaluation and followup care that
20 is required to be provided by birth centers; providing
21 an effective date.

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23 WHEREAS, the Alachua County Perinatal Mental Health
24 Coalition released its 2017 Maternal Mental Health Needs
25 Assessment, which found that perinatal mental illness is the

26 | leading health complication related to pregnancy and birth, and

27 | WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 5 mothers nationally will
28 | experience Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMD), and

29 | WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 10 fathers will also experience
30 | symptoms of PMD, and

31 | WHEREAS, Florida loses approximately \$900 million annually
32 | because of the failure to recognize and treat perinatal mental
33 | illnesses, and

34 | WHEREAS, approximately 44,000 Florida babies are born to a
35 | parent experiencing a perinatal mental illness, and those babies
36 | may experience social, emotional, and cognitive detriments if
37 | their affected parents do not have access to proper care or
38 | receive treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

39 |

40 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41 |

42 | Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Families
43 | First Act."

44 | Section 2. Section 383.014, Florida Statutes, is created
45 | to read:

46 | 383.014 Perinatal mental health care.—By January 1, 2019,
47 | the Department of Health shall:

48 | (1) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care
49 | toll-free hotline, accessible to the general public, which:

50 | (a) Provides basic information on postpartum depression

51 and perinatal care;

52 (b) May recommend that a caller or patient be further
53 evaluated by a qualified health care provider; and

54 (c) May refer a caller or patient to an appropriate health
55 care provider in the caller's or patient's local area.

56 (2) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care
57 provider toll-free hotline for health care providers, as defined
58 in s. 408.07, which:

59 (a) Provides information to assist health care providers
60 in addressing the mental health of a pregnant or postpartum
61 patient;

62 (b) Maintains and offers the contact information of health
63 care providers throughout the state who have experience in
64 caring for pregnant or postpartum patients; and

65 (c) Compiles resources to encourage the efficient and
66 coordinated care of pregnant or postpartum patients.

67 (3) Create public service announcements (PSAs) to educate
68 the public on perinatal mental health care. The PSAs must
69 include the telephone number of the perinatal mental health care
70 hotline established in subsection (1).

71 (4) Encourage mental health care providers, and health
72 care providers who conduct postpartum evaluations or treat
73 postpartum patients, to attend continuing medical education
74 courses on perinatal mental health care.

75 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 383.318, Florida

76 Statutes, is amended to read:

77 383.318 Postpartum care for birth center clients and
78 infants.—

79 (3) The birth center shall provide a postpartum evaluation
80 and followup care that includes all of the following ~~shall be~~
81 ~~provided, which shall include:~~

82 (a) Physical examination of the infant.

83 (b) Metabolic screening tests required by s. 383.14.

84 (c) Referral to sources for pediatric care.

85 (d) Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates
86 mental health screening.

87 (e) Information on postpartum depression and the telephone
88 number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established
89 in s. 383.014.

90 ~~(f)(e)~~ Instruction in child care, including immunization,
91 breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, and possible causes of
92 Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.

93 ~~(g)(f)~~ Family planning services.

94 ~~(h)(g)~~ Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as
95 indicated.

96 Section 4. Section 395.1053, Florida Statutes, is amended
97 to read:

98 395.1053 Postpartum care and education.—A hospital that
99 provides birthing services is encouraged to provide a postpartum
100 evaluation and followup care that includes all of the following:

- 101 (1) Physical examination of the infant.
- 102 (2) Metabolic screening tests required by s. 383.14.
- 103 (3) Referral to sources for pediatric care.
- 104 (4) Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates
 105 mental health screening.
- 106 (5) Information on postpartum depression and the telephone
 107 number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established
 108 in s. 383.014.
- 109 (6) Instruction in child care, including immunization,
 110 breastfeeding, ~~shall incorporate information on safe sleep~~
 111 practices, ~~and the possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant~~
 112 ~~Death into the hospital's postpartum instruction on the care of~~
 113 ~~newborns.~~
- 114 (7) Family planning services.
- 115 (8) Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as indicated.
- 116 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.