

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 792

S.P. 241

February 15, 2007

An Act Concerning Postpartum Mental Health Education

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SULLIVAN of York.
Cosponsored by Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough and
Senators: BOWMAN of York, President EDMONDS of Cumberland, MARRACHÉ of
Kennebec, Representatives: HAYES of Buckfield, PERRY of Calais, PRATT of Eddington,
SUTHERLAND of Chapman, TRINWARD of Waterville.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §262** is enacted to read:

3 **§262. Prenatal and postpartum mental health**

4 The commissioner, in conjunction with the Board of Licensure in Medicine, the State
5 Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the State Board of Nursing, shall work with
6 health care facilities and health care practitioners, as defined in section 1711-C,
7 subsection 1, to develop policies and procedures to achieve the requirements of this
8 section concerning prenatal and postpartum mental health in order to improve the mental
9 health of pregnant women and mothers of children up to one year of age.

10 **1. Prenatal education and screening.** Health care practitioners who provide
11 prenatal care to women shall provide education to pregnant women about prenatal and
12 postpartum mental health and shall screen each woman to identify current mental health
13 issues or risk factors for possible prenatal and postpartum mental health issues.

14 **2. Postpartum education and screening.** Health care practitioners who provide
15 postpartum care to women and well baby care to infants shall provide education on and
16 screen mothers for postpartum mental health issues as set out in this subsection.

17 **A. Health care practitioners in facilities in which babies are born shall:**

18 (1) Prior to her discharge from the facility, screen the mother for postpartum
19 mental health issues; and

20 (2) At the time of her discharge from the facility, provide to the mother
21 comprehensive information about postpartum mental health issues, including
22 symptoms, methods of coping with postpartum mental health issues and
23 treatment resources.

24 **B. Health care practitioners who provide postpartum care to women shall screen a**
25 **mother for postpartum mental health issues at the first office visit after delivery of the**
26 **baby.**

27 **C. Health care practitioners who provide well baby care for infants shall screen the**
28 **mother for postpartum mental health issues at every well baby check for the first**
29 **year.**

30 **3. Inclusion.** Health care practitioners providing education and screening under this
31 section shall, with regard to prenatal and postpartum mental health, include the partner,
32 spouse or father and other family members, as appropriate, in education and the treatment
33 process in order to increase their understanding and improve the course of treatment for
34 the mother.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill will provide information on and screening for prenatal and postpartum
37 mental health issues to pregnant women and mothers of children under one year of age
38 and information to the partners, spouses or fathers and family members, as appropriate.