HB322 ENGROSSED



- 1 HB322
- 2 4UUWCRR-2
- 3 By Representatives Holk-Jones, Lee, Givan, Sellers, Shaver,
- 4 DuBose
- 5 RFD: Health
- 6 First Read: 20-Feb-25

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5	A BILL
6	TO BE ENTITLED
7	AN ACT
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9	Relating to postpartum depression; to add Section
10	22-20-3.3 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for
11	educational materials concerning postpartum depression; and to
12	add Section 22-20-3.4 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to require
13	assessment for postpartum depression as a part of postnatal
14	care.
15	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
16	Section 1. Sections 22-20-3.3 and 22-20-3.4 are added
17	to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:
18	§22-20-3.3
19	(a)(1) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall
20	publish written materials to share with health care
21	professionals and to educate parents about postpartum
22	depression.
23	(2) The materials shall include information from
24	credible sources on the signs and symptoms of postpartum
25	depression and when to seek help.
26	(3) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall
27	periodically review the materials to determine their
28	effectiveness and ensure that they contain current and

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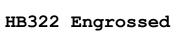


- 29 accurate information.
- 30 (b) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall post
- 31 the materials on its website and make the materials available
- 32 in printed form for distribution to health care professionals
- 33 and hospitals.
- 34 (c) Hospitals may provide the materials developed under
- 35 this section to parents or family members of a newborn upon
- 36 discharge.
- 37 (d) Hospitals as defined in Section 22-21-20,
- 38 physicians, or health care professionals licensed under
- 39 Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34,
- 40 shall not have legal liability or responsibility for claims
- 41 resulting from providing, or failing to provide, the
- 42 information and materials on maternal mental health
- 43 conditions, including postpartum depression, developed
- 44 pursuant to this section.
- 45 \$22-20-3.4
- 46 (a) A physician or other health care professional
- 47 licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter
- 48 21 of Title 34, when rendering postnatal or pediatric infant
- 49 care, shall assess a birth mother for postpartum depression.
- 50 (b) A physician or other health care professional
- 1 licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or Article 5 of Chapter
- 52 21 of Title 34, shall exercise professional judgment in
- 53 recommending or not recommending any treatment that he or she
- 54 believes is in the best interest of the birth mother.
- 55 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
- establish a standard of care for physicians or other health



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- 57 care professionals licensed under Chapter 24 of Title 34 or
- Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, or otherwise modify,
- amend, or supersede any provision of the Alabama Medical
- 60 Liability Act of 1987 or the Alabama Medical Liability Act of
- 61 1996, or any amendment thereto, or any judicial interpretation
- 62 thereof.
- Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
- 64 1, 2025.





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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and referred20-Feb-25 to the House of Representatives
committee on Health
Read for the second time and placed05-Mar-25
on the calendar: 0 amendments
Read for the third time and passed18-Mar-25
as amended
Yeas 102
Nays 0
Abstains 0
John Treadwell
Clerk