

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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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to postpartum depression; to add Section 22-20-3.3 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for educational materials concerning postpartum depression; and to add Section 22-20-3.4 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to require assessment for postpartum depression as a part of postnatal care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 22-20-3.3 and 22-20-3.4 are added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§22-20-3.3

(a) (1) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall publish written materials to share with health care professionals and to educate parents about postpartum depression.

(2) The materials shall include information from credible sources on the signs and symptoms of postpartum depression and when to seek help.

(3) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall periodically review the materials to determine their 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
51 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
56 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
58 Article 5 of Chapter 21 of Title 34, or otherwise modify,
59 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.

63 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