

Chapter 6

(Senate Bill 74)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Maternal Mental Health

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Maternal Mental Health; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Maternal Mental Health.

Preamble

WHEREAS, During pregnancy and for up to 1 year after birth, women have an increased risk of developing a mood or anxiety disorder; and

WHEREAS, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders affect between 10% and 25% of all pregnant women and new mothers; and

WHEREAS, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders have been identified in women of every culture, age, income level, and race; and

WHEREAS, More than 400,000 infants every year are born to mothers who are depressed, making perinatal depression the most underdiagnosed and untreated obstetric complication in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders can have very serious adverse effects on the health and functioning of the mother, her infant, and her family; and

WHEREAS, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders are treatable once recognized, yet 50% of all mothers who experience these disorders are never identified; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Maternal Mental Health.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) a representative of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(4) a representative of the Behavioral Health Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(5) a representative of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; ~~and~~

(6) a representative of the Division of Corrections, appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and

~~(6)~~ (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;

(ii) one representative of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society;

(iii) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the Society of Hospital Medicine;

(v) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

(vi) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness;

(vii) one representative of the Maryland Psychiatric Society;

(viii) one representative of the Maryland Psychological Association;

(ix) one representative of Postpartum Support Maryland;

(x) one representative of the Johns Hopkins Women's Mood Disorders Center;

(xi) one representative of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence;

- ~~(xi)~~ (xii) one representative from the health insurance industry;
- ~~(xii)~~ (xiii) one nurse psychotherapist experienced in providing perinatal mental health services;
- ~~(xiii)~~ (xiv) one licensed clinical social worker experienced in providing perinatal mental health services;
- ~~(xiv)~~ (xv) one perinatal registered nurse experienced in providing perinatal mental health services;
- ~~(xv)~~ (xvi) one obstetrician experienced in providing perinatal mental health services;
- ~~(xvi)~~ (xvii) one reproductive psychiatrist;
- ~~(xvii)~~ (xviii) one reproductive therapist; and
- ~~(xviii)~~ (xix) one Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders survivor.

(c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The ~~Department of Health and Mental Hygiene~~ Mental Health Association of Maryland shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

- (1) identify vulnerable populations and risk factors in the State for maternal mental health disorders that may occur during pregnancy and through the first postpartum year;
- (2) identify and recommend effective, culturally competent, and accessible prevention screening and identification and treatment strategies, including public education and awareness, provider education and training, and social support services;
- (3) identify successful postpartum mental health initiatives in other states and recommend programs, tools, strategies, and funding sources that are needed to implement similar initiatives in the State;

- (4) identify and recommend evidence-based practices for health care providers and public health systems;
- (5) identify and recommend private and public funding models; and
- (6) make recommendations on:
 - (i) legislation, policy initiatives, funding requirements, and budgetary priorities to address maternal mental health needs in the State; and
 - (ii) any other relevant issues identified by the Task Force.
- (g) On or before December 15, ~~2015~~ 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and ~~1 month~~ 7 months and, at the end of ~~June 30~~ December 31, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.