

# SENATE BILL 891

J5, J2, J1

6lr2075  
CF HB 1118

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By: **Senators Gile, Beidle, Hester, Hettleman, and King**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations – Perinatal ~~Mental~~**  
3 **Behavioral Health Conditions**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring carriers to provide a standing referral to a ~~mental~~ behavioral  
5 health care provider for a certain period of time; ~~clarifying the application of~~  
6 ~~provisions requiring carriers to allow a member to obtain a referral to a provider who~~  
7 ~~is not part of the carrier's provider network when seeking care for a mental health~~  
8 ~~condition in certain circumstances;~~ requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance  
9 Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health  
10 maintenance organizations to provide coverage for screening for perinatal ~~mental~~  
11 behavioral health conditions at certain times; altering and establishing  
12 requirements related to the identification and development of training programs  
13 that improve early identification of perinatal ~~mental~~ behavioral health conditions;  
14 requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish a perinatal ~~mental health~~  
15 ~~condition screening program~~ certain health care providers to screen for perinatal  
16 behavioral health conditions; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to  
17 identify certain screening tools and to assist certain health care providers with  
18 accessing resources and referral services related to screening for perinatal  
19 behavioral health conditions; requiring certain applicants for the renewal of a health  
20 ~~occupation license or certificate to provide documentation that the applicant~~  
21 ~~completed continuing education credit hours~~ health occupations boards to grant a  
22 certain number of hours of continuing education credits for each hour of continuing  
23 education completed by certain individuals on perinatal ~~mental~~ behavioral health  
24 conditions; and generally relating to perinatal ~~mental~~ behavioral health conditions.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
2 Article – Health – General  
3 Section 15–103(a)(1)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Health – General  
8 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxvii) and (xxviii), 20–1801, and 20–1802  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxix), 20–1801, and 20–1804  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Insurance  
18 Section 15–830(a) and (c)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article – Insurance  
23 Section 15–830(d)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 26 BY adding to  
27 Article – Insurance  
28 Section 15–864  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 31 BY adding to  
32 ~~Article – Health – General~~  
33 ~~Section 20–1801 and 20–1804~~  
34 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
35 ~~(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~
- 36 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
37 ~~Article – Health – General~~  
38 ~~Section 20–1801 and 20–1802~~  
39 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
40 ~~(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

1 ~~BY adding to~~  
 2 Article – Health Occupations  
 3 Section 1–231  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Health – General**

9 15–103.

10 (a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance  
 11 Program.

12 (2) The Program:

13 (xxvii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, if providing coverage for the  
 14 delivery of anesthesia, shall provide coverage for the delivery of anesthesia in accordance  
 15 with § 15–862 of the Insurance Article; [and]

16 (xxviii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, shall provide calcium score  
 17 testing in accordance with § 15–863 of the Insurance Article; AND

18 **(XXIX) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2027, SHALL PROVIDE**  
 19 **COVERAGE FOR SCREENING FOR PERINATAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AT**  
 20 **WELL VISITS WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE CHILD’S LIFE, AS DETERMINED**  
 21 **APPROPRIATE BY THE TREATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.**

22 **Article – Insurance**

23 15–830.

24 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (2) “Carrier” means:

26 (i) an insurer that offers health insurance other than long-term  
 27 care insurance or disability insurance;

28 (ii) a nonprofit health service plan;

29 (iii) a health maintenance organization;

1 (iv) a dental plan organization; or

2 (v) except for a managed care organization as defined in Title 15,  
3 Subtitle 1 of the Health – General Article, any other person that provides health benefit  
4 plans subject to State regulation.

5 (3) (i) “Member” means an individual entitled to health care benefits  
6 under a policy or plan issued or delivered in the State by a carrier.

7 (ii) “Member” includes a subscriber.

8 ~~(4) “MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER” INCLUDES A PERINATAL MENTAL~~  
9 ~~HEALTH CONDITION.~~

10 ~~[(4)] (5)~~ “Nonphysician specialist” means a health care provider:

11 (i) 1. who is not a physician;

12 2. who is licensed or certified under the Health Occupations  
13 Article; and

14 3. who is certified or trained to treat or provide health care  
15 services for a specified condition or disease in a manner that is within the scope of the  
16 license or certification of the health care provider; or

17 (ii) that is licensed as a behavioral health program under § 7.5–401  
18 of the Health – General Article.

19 ~~(6) (5)~~ (I) “PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
20 CONDITION” MEANS A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION OCCURRING  
21 DURING PREGNANCY, ~~THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD, OR THE PERINATAL PERIOD OR~~  
22 WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A PREGNANCY, INCLUDING A  
23 PREGNANCY THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN A LIVE BIRTH.

24 (II) “PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION”  
25 INCLUDES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION.

26 ~~[(5)] (7) (6)~~ (i) “Provider panel” means the providers that contract with a  
27 carrier either directly or through a subcontracting entity to provide health care services to  
28 enrollees of the carrier.

29 (ii) “Provider panel” does not include an arrangement in which any  
30 provider may participate solely by contracting with the carrier to provide health care  
31 services at a discounted fee-for-service rate.

1            [(6)] ~~(8)~~ (7) “Specialist” means a physician who is certified or trained to  
2 practice in a specified field of medicine and who is not designated as a primary care provider  
3 by the carrier.

4            (c)    (1)    (I)    Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a member  
5 who is pregnant shall receive a standing referral to an obstetrician, in accordance with this  
6 subsection.

7            [(2)]    (II)    After the member who is pregnant receives a standing referral to  
8 an obstetrician, the obstetrician is responsible for the primary management of the  
9 member’s pregnancy, including the issuance of referrals in accordance with the carrier’s  
10 policies and procedures, through the postpartum period.

11            (2)    NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A  
12 MEMBER SHALL RECEIVE A STANDING REFERRAL ~~TO A MENTAL HEALTH CARE~~  
13 ~~PROVIDER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, FOR THE DURATION OF THE~~  
14 ~~MEMBER’S PREGNANCY AND 1 YEAR AFTER THE MEMBER GIVES BIRTH TO A~~  
15 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE  
16 PROVIDER’S LICENSE, INCLUDING A PSYCHIATRIST, PSYCHOLOGIST, LICENSED  
17 SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL, OR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR FOR:

18            (I)    THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES RECOGNIZED BY THE  
19 UNITED STATES PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE AS PREVENTIVE BENEFITS;  
20 AND

21            (II)    THE DURATION OF THE MEMBER’S PREGNANCY AND 1 YEAR  
22 AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PREGNANCY.

23            (3)    A written treatment plan may not be required when a standing referral  
24 is to an obstetrician ~~OR MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER under this  
25 subsection.

26            (d)    (1)    Each carrier shall establish and implement a procedure by which a  
27 member may request a referral to a specialist or nonphysician specialist who is not part of  
28 the carrier’s provider panel in accordance with this subsection.

29            (2)    The procedure shall provide for a referral to a specialist or nonphysician  
30 specialist who is not part of the carrier’s provider panel if:

31            (i)    1.    the member is diagnosed with a condition or disease that  
32 requires specialized health care services or medical care; and

33            2.    A.    the carrier does not have in its provider panel a  
34 specialist or nonphysician specialist with the professional training and expertise to treat or  
35 provide health care services for the condition or disease; or

1                   B.     the carrier cannot provide reasonable access to a specialist  
2 or nonphysician specialist with the professional training and expertise to treat or provide  
3 health care services for the condition or disease without unreasonable delay or travel,  
4 including within the reasonable appointment waiting time and travel distance standards  
5 established in regulation for mental health and substance use disorder services; or

6                   (ii)    1.     the member is seeking mental health or substance use  
7 disorder care; and

8                   2.     the carrier cannot provide reasonable access to a specialist  
9 or nonphysician specialist within the reasonable appointment waiting time and travel  
10 distance standards established in regulation for mental health and substance use disorder  
11 services.

12                  (3)     The procedure shall ensure that a request to obtain a referral to a  
13 specialist or nonphysician specialist who is not part of the carrier's provider panel is  
14 addressed in a timely manner that is:

15                   (i)     appropriate for the member's condition; and

16                   (ii)    in accordance with the timeliness requirements for  
17 determinations made by private review agents under § 15–10B–06 of this title.

18                  (4)     If a member cannot access mental health or substance use disorder  
19 services through the referral requirements under paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection,  
20 the procedure shall require the carrier to provide additional assistance to the member in  
21 identifying and arranging coverage of mental health or substance use disorder services by  
22 a specialist or nonphysician specialist who is not part of the carrier's provider panel.

23                  (5)     If a carrier approves a member's request for a referral made in  
24 accordance with this subsection, the carrier may not require utilization review other than  
25 what would be required if the covered benefit were provided by a provider on the carrier's  
26 provider panel.

27                  (6)     The procedure may not be used by a carrier as a substitute for  
28 establishing and maintaining a sufficient provider network in accordance with § 15–112 of  
29 this title.

30                  (7)     Each carrier shall:

31                   (i)     have a system in place that documents all requests to obtain a  
32 referral to receive a covered service from a specialist or nonphysician specialist who is not  
33 part of the carrier's provider panel;

34                   (ii)    inform members of the procedure to request a referral under  
35 paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(iii) provide the information documented under item (i) of this paragraph to the Commissioner on request.

15-864.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 15-830 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

(2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

(C) ~~(1)~~ AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR SCREENING FOR PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS:

~~(I) AT EACH PRENATAL VISIT;~~

~~(II) AT LEAST ONCE WITHIN 6 WEEKS AFTER THE INSURED OR ENROLLEE GAVE BIRTH; AND~~

~~(III) AT EACH WELL CHILD VISIT VISITS~~ WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE CHILD’S LIFE, AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE TREATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

~~(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY SUBJECT THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO A COPAYMENT OR COINSURANCE REQUIREMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE THAT AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION IMPOSES FOR SIMILAR COVERAGES UNDER THE SAME POLICY OR CONTRACT.~~

~~(II) THE COPAYMENT OR COINSURANCE REQUIREMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE IMPOSED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE GREATER THAN THE COPAYMENT OR COINSURANCE REQUIREMENT OR DEDUCTIBLE IMPOSED BY THE ENTITY FOR SIMILAR COVERAGES.~~

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
2 as follows:

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 **20–1801.**

5 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
6 INDICATED.

7 (B) “HEALTH CARE PROVIDER” MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED,  
8 CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS  
9 ARTICLE TO PROVIDE HEALTH OR MEDICAL CARE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF  
10 BUSINESS OR PRACTICE OF A PROFESSION.

11 (C) (1) “PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION” MEANS  
12 A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION OCCURRING DURING PREGNANCY, ~~THE~~  
13 ~~POSTPARTUM PERIOD, OR THE PERINATAL PERIOD~~ OR WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE  
14 CONCLUSION OF A PREGNANCY, INCLUDING A PREGNANCY THAT DOES NOT RESULT  
15 IN A LIVE BIRTH.

16 (2) “PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITION”  
17 INCLUDES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION.

18 [20–1801.] **20–1802.**

19 (a) [(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) (i) “Health care facility” means a facility or an office where health  
21 or medical care is provided to patients by a health care provider.

22 (ii) “Health care facility” includes a hospital and a limited service  
23 hospital.

24 (3) “Health care provider” means a person who is licensed, certified, or  
25 otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide health or medical  
26 care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

27 (4) “Hospital” has the meaning stated in § 19–301 of this article.

28 (5) “Limited service hospital” has the meaning stated in § 19–301 of this  
29 article.

1 (b) The Department, in consultation with stakeholders, shall identify up-to-date,  
2 evidence-based, written information about perinatal [mood and anxiety disorders]  
3 ~~MENTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS~~ that:

4 (1) Has been reviewed by medical experts and national and local  
5 organizations specializing in maternal mental health;

6 (2) Is designed for use by health care providers and pregnant and  
7 postpartum women and their families;

8 (3) Is culturally and linguistically appropriate for potential recipients of  
9 the information; and

10 (4) Includes:

11 (i) Information addressing:

12 1. The signs and symptoms of perinatal mood and anxiety  
13 disorders;

14 2. Perinatal medication usage;

15 3. Risk factors of perinatal [mood and anxiety disorders]  
16 ~~MENTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS~~, including perinatal loss and high-risk  
17 pregnancy;

18 4. How and when to screen for symptoms of perinatal [mood  
19 and anxiety disorders] ~~MENTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS~~;

20 5. Brief intervention strategies; and

21 6. Evidence-based psychosocial treatments; and

22 (ii) Contact information for national and local maternal mental  
23 health programs and services.

24 [(c) (B) The Department shall:

25 (1) Provide the information identified by the Department under subsection  
26 [(b) (A) of this section to [health]:

27 (I) HEALTH care facilities and health care providers that provide  
28 prenatal care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care to expectant parents; AND

29 (II) EACH LOCAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
30 PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN AGENCY IN THE STATE; and

1 (2) Make the information identified by the Department under subsection  
2 ~~[(b)] (A)~~ of this section available on the Department's website.

3 (C) ~~A~~ AT LEAST ONCE DURING EACH TRIMESTER, A HEALTH CARE  
4 PROVIDER WHO EVALUATES AND MANAGES PREGNANCY OR POSTPARTUM  
5 PERINATAL CARE WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE HEALTH CARE  
6 PROVIDER'S LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL PROVIDE THE TO A PATIENT:

7 (1) THE INFORMATION IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
8 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO A PATIENT AT EACH PRENATAL VISIT; OR

9 (2) OTHER APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON PERINATAL  
10 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

11 (D) A HOSPITAL SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION IDENTIFIED BY THE  
12 DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO A BIRTHING PARENT ON  
13 DISCHARGE FROM THE BIRTHING HOSPITAL.

14 [20-1802.] **20-1803.**

15 (a) The Department, in [collaboration with MedChi, The Maryland State Medical  
16 Society, the Maryland Nurses Association, the Maryland Affiliate of the American College  
17 of Nurse Midwives, the Maryland Psychological Association, and any other health  
18 professional association or public health entity in the State identified by the Department]  
19 **CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS, THE STATE BOARD OF**  
20 **NURSING, AND POSTPARTUM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL**, shall identify and develop  
21 training programs that improve early identification of [postpartum depression and]  
22 perinatal [mood and anxiety disorders] ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS  
23 **THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY USE TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 1-231 OF THE**  
24 **HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.**

25 (b) The programs **IDENTIFIED OR** developed under subsection (a) of this section  
26 shall include continuing medical education programs developed by organizations that are  
27 accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

28 (C) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS**  
29 **IDENTIFIED OR DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ON REQUEST.**

30 **20-1804.**

31 (A) ~~THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF~~  
32 ~~PHYSICIANS AND THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING, SHALL DEVELOP A PERINATAL~~  
33 ~~MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION SCREENING PROGRAM.~~

1 ~~(B) THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION~~  
 2 ~~SHALL REQUIRE A~~ A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO EVALUATES AND MANAGES  
 3 PREGNANCY OR POSTPARTUM CARE WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE  
 4 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ~~TO~~ SHALL CONDUCT A  
 5 SCREENING FOR PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS:

6 ~~(1) AT EACH PRENATAL VISIT;~~

7 ~~(2) AT LEAST ONCE WITHIN 6 WEEKS AFTER THE INSURED OR~~  
 8 ~~ENROLLEE GAVE BIRTH; AND~~

9 ~~(3) AT EACH AT WELL CHILD VISIT VISITS~~ WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR OF  
 10 THE CHILD'S LIFE, AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE TREATING HEALTH CARE  
 11 PROVIDER.

12 ~~(C)~~ (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY ACCEPTABLE  
 13 SCREENING TOOLS FOR CONDUCTING THE SCREENINGS REQUIRED UNDER  
 14 SUBSECTION ~~(B)~~ (A) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (2) THE SCREENING TOOLS IDENTIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
 16 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE VALIDATED, ROUTINELY USED, FREE, EASY TO  
 17 ADMINISTER AND SCORE, AND AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES.

18 ~~(D)~~ (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ASSIST HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH  
 19 ACCESSING RESOURCES AND REFERRAL SERVICES THROUGH MARYLAND  
 20 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION IN PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE, MATERNAL  
 21 HEALTH INNOVATION PROGRAM, AND POSTPARTUM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TO  
 22 ASSIST PROVIDERS IN FINDING TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS  
 23 IDENTIFIED AS AT RISK FOR A PERINATAL ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
 24 CONDITION.

## 25 Article – Health Occupations

26 1-231.

27 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO ~~AN APPLICANT~~ A LICENSEE OR  
 28 CERTIFICATE HOLDER WHO EVALUATES AND MANAGES ~~PREGNANCY OR~~  
 29 ~~POSTPARTUM~~ PERINATAL CARE WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE  
 30 ~~APPLICANT'S~~ LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE.

31 (B) ~~(1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN~~  
 32 ~~APPLICANT FOR THE RENEWAL OF A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A HEALTH~~

~~OCCUPATIONS BOARD UNDER THIS ARTICLE WHO INTERACTS WITH THE PERINATAL POPULATION SHALL PROVIDE SATISFACTORY DOCUMENTATION WITH THE RENEWAL APPLICATION THAT THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED AT LEAST TWO CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS~~ Each health occupations board that requires a licensee or certificate holder to complete continuing education as a condition of the renewal of the license or certificate shall grant at least 2 hours of continuing education credits for every 1 hour of continuing education completed by the licensee or certificate holder on perinatal ~~mental~~ behavioral health conditions identified by the department under § 20-1803 of the Health - General Article.

~~(2) The continuing education requirement under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply only to an applicant's first license or certificate renewal after April 1, 2027.~~

(c) Each health occupations board may adopt regulations to carry out this section, including regulations specifying which providers are subject to the requirements of this section establishing the maximum number of continuing education credits that may be granted under this section.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2026, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

(1) conduct an analysis in accordance with § 15-1501 of the Insurance Article on impact of:

(i) requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the State Health Plan, and insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups on an expense-incurred basis under health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or delivered in the State and health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups under contract that are issued or delivered in the State to provide coverage for screening for perinatal behavioral health conditions:

1. at each prenatal visit;

2. at least once within 6 weeks after the insured or enrollee gave birth; and

3. at each well child visit within the first year of the child's life; and

1 (ii) prohibiting the entities described in item (i) of this item from  
2 subjecting the coverage required under item (i) of this item from:

3 1. imposing a copayment or coinsurance requirement or  
4 deductible that is greater than the copayment or coinsurance requirement or deductible  
5 imposed by the entity for similar coverages; or

6 2. imposing any copayment or coinsurance requirement or  
7 deductible; and

8 (2) report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health  
9 Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on its findings  
10 from the analysis conducted in accordance with paragraph (1) of this section.

11 SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall  
12 apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the  
13 State on or after January 1, 2027.

14 SECTION ~~4~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That ~~Section 1~~ Sections 1 and 2  
15 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

16 SECTION ~~5~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in  
17 Section ~~4~~ 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2026~~ July 1, 2026.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.