

By Senator Book

32-00046-18

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to perinatal mental health; providing  
3       a short title; creating s. 383.014, F.S.; requiring  
4       the Department of Health to establish and maintain a  
5       toll-free hotline accessible to the general public and  
6       a toll-free hotline accessible to health care  
7       providers; requiring the department to create public  
8       service announcements to educate the public on  
9       perinatal mental health care; requiring the department  
10      to encourage certain health care providers to attend  
11      continuing medical education courses on perinatal  
12      mental health care; amending s. 383.318, F.S.;  
13      revising components that are included in the  
14      postpartum evaluation and followup care provided by  
15      birth centers to include a mental health screening and  
16      the provision of certain information on postpartum  
17      depression; amending s. 395.1053, F.S.; requiring  
18      hospitals that provide birthing services to provide  
19      the same postpartum evaluation and followup care that  
20      is required to be provided by birth centers; providing  
21      an effective date.

22  
23       WHEREAS, the Alachua County Perinatal Mental Health  
24      Coalition released its 2017 Maternal Mental Health Needs  
25      Assessment, which found that perinatal mental illness is the  
26      leading health complication related to pregnancy and birth, and

27       WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 5 mothers nationally will  
28      experience Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMD), and

29       WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 10 fathers will also experience

32-00046-18

2018138\_\_

30 symptoms of PMD, and

31 WHEREAS, Florida loses approximately \$900 million annually  
32 because of the failure to recognize and treat perinatal mental  
33 illnesses, and

34 WHEREAS, approximately 44,000 Florida babies are born to a  
35 parent experiencing a perinatal mental illness, and those babies  
36 may experience social, emotional, and cognitive detriments if  
37 their affected parents do not have access to proper care or  
38 receive treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

39  
40 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41  
42 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Families  
43 First Act."

44 Section 2. Section 383.014, Florida Statutes, is created to  
45 read:

46 383.014 Perinatal mental health care.—By January 1, 2019,  
47 the Department of Health shall:

48 (1) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care  
49 toll-free hotline, accessible to the general public, which:

50 (a) Provides basic information on postpartum depression and  
51 perinatal care;

52 (b) May recommend that a caller or patient be further  
53 evaluated by a qualified health care provider; and

54 (c) May refer a caller or patient to an appropriate health  
55 care provider in the caller's or patient's local area.

56 (2) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care  
57 provider toll-free hotline for health care providers, as defined  
58 in s. 408.07, which:

32-00046-18

2018138\_\_

59 (a) Provides information to assist health care providers in  
60 addressing the mental health of a pregnant or postpartum  
61 patient;

62 (b) Maintains and offers the contact information of health  
63 care providers throughout the state who have experience in  
64 caring for pregnant or postpartum patients; and

65 (c) Compiles resources to encourage the efficient and  
66 coordinated care of pregnant or postpartum patients.

67 (3) Create public service announcements (PSAs) to educate  
68 the public on perinatal mental health care. The PSAs must  
69 include the telephone number of the perinatal mental health care  
70 hotline established in subsection (1).

71 (4) Encourage mental health care providers, and health care  
72 providers who conduct postpartum evaluations or treat postpartum  
73 patients, to attend continuing medical education courses on  
74 perinatal mental health care.

75 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 383.318, Florida  
76 Statutes, is amended to read:

77 383.318 Postpartum care for birth center clients and  
78 infants.-

79 (3) The birth center shall provide a postpartum evaluation  
80 and followup care that includes all of the following ~~shall be~~  
81 provided, which shall include:

82 (a) Physical examination of the infant.

83 (b) Metabolic screening tests required by s. 383.14.

84 (c) Referral to sources for pediatric care.

85 (d) Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates mental  
86 health screening.

87 (e) Information on postpartum depression and the telephone

32-00046-18

2018138\_\_

88 number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established  
89 in s. 383.014.

90 (f)(e) Instruction in child care, including immunization,  
91 breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, and possible causes of  
92 Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.

93 (g)(f) Family planning services.

94 (h)(g) Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as  
95 indicated.

96 Section 4. Section 395.1053, Florida Statutes, is amended  
97 to read:

98 395.1053 Postpartum care and education.—A hospital that  
99 provides birthing services shall provide a postpartum evaluation  
100 and followup care that includes all of the following:

101 (1) Physical examination of the infant.

102 (2) Metabolic screening tests required by s. 383.14.

103 (3) Referral to sources for pediatric care.

104 (4) Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates mental  
105 health screening.

106 (5) Information on postpartum depression and the telephone  
107 number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established  
108 in s. 383.014.

109 (6) Instruction in child care, including immunization,  
110 breastfeeding, ~~incorporate information on~~ safe sleep practices,  
111 and ~~the~~ possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death ~~into~~  
112 the hospital's postpartum instruction on the care of newborns.

113 (7) Family planning services.

114 (8) Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as indicated.

115 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.