

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2980

03/29/2012 Authored by Mack

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; requiring development of public education for and a plan to
1.3 reduce the prevalence of maternal depression; requiring the commissioners of
1.4 human services and health to provide technical assistance related to maternal
1.5 depression screening and referrals; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections
1.6 145.906; 256B.04, by adding a subdivision.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 145.906, is amended to read:

1.9 **145.906 POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION EDUCATION AND INFORMATION.**

1.10 (a) The commissioner of health shall work with health care facilities, licensed health
1.11 and mental health care professionals, the women, infants, and children (WIC) program,
1.12 mental health advocates, consumers, and families in the state to develop materials and
1.13 information about postpartum depression, including treatment resources, and develop
1.14 policies and procedures to comply with this section.

1.15 (b) Physicians, traditional midwives, and other licensed health care professionals
1.16 providing prenatal care to women must have available to women and their families
1.17 information about postpartum depression.

1.18 (c) Hospitals and other health care facilities in the state must provide departing new
1.19 mothers and fathers and other family members, as appropriate, with written information
1.20 about postpartum depression, including its symptoms, methods of coping with the illness,
1.21 and treatment resources.

1.22 (d) Information about postpartum depression, including its symptoms, potential
1.23 impact on families, and treatment resources, must be available at WIC sites.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 256B.04, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subd. 22. **Maternal depression screening and referral.** The commissioner, with
2.4 the commissioner of health, shall provide technical assistance to health care providers,
2.5 to improve maternal depression screening and referral rates for medical assistance and
2.6 MinnesotaCare enrollees. The technical assistance must include, but is not limited to,
2.7 the provision of information on culturally competent practice, administrative and legal
2.8 liability issues, and best practices for discussing mental health issues with patients.

2.9 Sec. 3. **INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONERS; PLAN.**

2.10 By January 15, 2013, the commissioners of human services, health, and education
2.11 shall develop a joint plan to reduce the prevalence of parental depression and other serious
2.12 mental illness and the potential impact of unaddressed parental mental illness on children.
2.13 This plan must include specific goals, outcomes, and recommended measures to determine
2.14 the impact of interventions on the incidence of maternal depression and child well-being,
2.15 including early childhood screening and the school readiness of high-risk children. The
2.16 plan shall address ways to encourage a multi-generational approach to adult mental
2.17 health and child well-being in public health, health care, adult and child mental health,
2.18 child welfare, and other relevant programs and policies, and include recommendations to
2.19 increase public awareness about untreated maternal depression and its potential harmful
2.20 impact on children.