

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.F. No. 1612

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DATE
02/21/2019

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; designating the month of May as Maternal Mental
1.3 Health Awareness Month; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 10.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[10.584] MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH.**

1.7 The month of May is designated as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month in
1.8 recognition of the state's desire to recognize the prevalence of pregnancy and postpartum
1.9 mental health issues and educate the people of the state about identifying symptoms and
1.10 seeking treatment options. Up to one-third of mothers report having symptoms of pregnancy
1.11 and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders each year. Many more cases go unreported due
1.12 to misunderstanding. Pregnancy and postpartum mood disorders are widespread but treatable
1.13 illnesses. Left untreated, pregnancy and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders can lead
1.14 to negative effects on birth outcomes, infant development, and the well-being of mothers
1.15 and families. The state declares that in order to educate the public, the governor may promote
1.16 and encourage the observance of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month.