

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2250

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

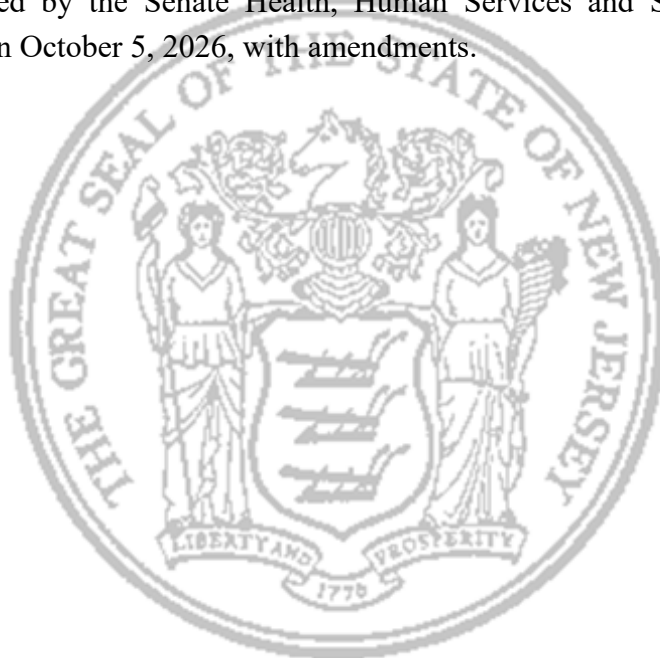
Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires licensed health care professionals providing prenatal and postnatal care to provide education and screenings to certain patients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on October 5, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning ¹**postpartum depression** prenatal and postnatal
2 care¹ and amending P.L.2000, c.167.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2000, c.167 (C.26:2-176) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Health, in conjunction with the State
10 Board of Medical Examiners and the New Jersey Board of Nursing,
11 shall work with health care facilities and licensed health care
12 professionals in the State to develop policies and procedures to achieve
13 the following requirements concerning postpartum depression:

14 a. Physicians, nurse midwives, and other licensed health care
15 professionals providing prenatal care to women shall provide
16 education to women and their families ¹, including individuals who
17 have an increased likelihood of postpartum depression because of a
18 prior history of mental illness,¹ about postpartum depression in order
19 to lower the likelihood that new mothers will continue to suffer from
20 this illness in silence;

21 b. All birthing facilities in the State shall provide departing new
22 mothers and fathers and other family members, as appropriate, with
23 complete information about postpartum depression, including its
24 symptoms ¹**[, methods of coping with the illness,]**¹ and treatment
25 resources;

26 c. Physicians, nurse midwives, and other licensed health care
27 professionals providing postnatal care to women shall screen new
28 mothers for postpartum depression symptoms prior to discharge from
29 the birthing facility and at the first few postnatal check-up visits;
30 **[and]**

31 d. Physicians, nurse midwives, and other licensed health care
32 professionals providing prenatal and postnatal care to women shall
33 include fathers and other family members, as appropriate, in both the
34 education and treatment processes to help them better understand the
35 nature and causes of postpartum depression so that they too can
36 overcome the spillover effects of the illness and improve their ability
37 to be supportive of the new mother; and

38 e. ¹**Physicians, nurse midwives, and other licensed health care**
39 **professionals providing prenatal care to women shall offer, and**
40 **provide upon the request, pregnant patients with a history of**
41 **depression a prenatal screening for postpartum depression]**
42 **Physicians, nurse midwives, and other licensed health care**
43 **professionals providing prenatal and postnatal care shall screen**
44 **patients for perinatal depression and anxiety during pregnancy and**

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 5, 2026.

1 after childbirth, using validated instruments, consistent with current
2 evidence-based professional guidelines, and shall arrange appropriate
3 assessment and follow-up care for patients with positive screens¹ .

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.