

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 253

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a strategic plan to address postpartum depression.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 32.046 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.046. POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION STRATEGIC PLAN. (a)

The executive commissioner shall develop and the department shall implement a five-year strategic plan to improve access to postpartum depression screening, referral, treatment, and support services. Not later than September 1 of the last fiscal year in each five-year period, the executive commissioner shall develop a new strategic plan for the next five fiscal years beginning with the following fiscal year.

(b) The strategic plan must provide strategies to:

(1) increase awareness among state-administered program providers who may serve women who are at risk of or are experiencing postpartum depression about the prevalence and effects of postpartum depression on outcomes for women and children;

(2) establish a referral network of community-based mental health providers and support services addressing postpartum depression;

(3) increase women's access to formal and informal peer support services, including access to certified peer

1 specialists who have received additional training related to
2 postpartum depression;

3 (4) raise public awareness of and reduce the stigma
4 related to postpartum depression; and

5 (5) leverage sources of funding to support existing
6 community-based postpartum depression screening, referral,
7 treatment, and support services.

8 (c) The executive commissioner shall coordinate with the
9 statewide health coordinating council, the office of mental health
10 coordination, and the statewide behavioral health coordinating
11 council in developing the strategic plan.

12 (d) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the
13 statewide health coordinating council, the office of mental health
14 coordination, and the statewide behavioral health coordinating
15 council, shall annually review and update, as necessary, the
16 strategic plan.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2020, the executive
18 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
19 develop the initial strategic plan required by Section 32.046,
20 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.