

Date of Hearing: April 24, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 798 (Cervantes) – As Amended April 9, 2019

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill creates a pilot program, in counties that elect to participate, including the County of Riverside, to increase the capacity of health care providers that serve pregnant and postpartum women up to one year after delivery to effectively prevent, identify and manage postpartum depression and other mental health conditions.

It authorizes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct the pilot, states the pilot shall be privately funded and may include training and toolkits on screening, assessment, and the range of treatment options; coordination of care; and access to perinatal psychiatric consultations.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to CDPH to conduct a pilot of at least \$500,000 to develop a toolkit for use in counties that elect to use it. Other approaches would be more costly and would scale to available resources. This bill indicates the pilot shall be funded by private funds, but in absence of committed private funding there would be GF cost pressure to fund a pilot established in state law.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, this pilot will help counties to improve treatment for maternal mental health.
- 2) **Background.** Maternal mental health conditions, including post-partum depression, anxiety and psychosis, affect about one in five mothers in California. Research shows these conditions are often undiagnosed and untreated and, if left untreated, can be harmful for the mother and for infant development.
- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 577 (Eggman), which is pending in this committee, extends from the current 60 days postpartum to one year postpartum full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for postpartum mothers diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition.

AB 845 (Maienschein), which is pending on the Assembly floor, requires the Medical Board of California (MBC) to consider including a course in maternal mental health when determining its continuing education requirements for doctors.

- 4) **Prior Legislation.** Pursuant to ACR 148 (Lowenthal), Chapter 96, Statutes of 2014, and with private funding support, the California Task Force on the Status of Maternal Mental Health Care was convened and released a white paper in 2017.

AB 2193 (Maienschein), Chapter 755, Statutes of 2018, requires a licensed health care practitioner who provides prenatal or postpartum care to offer to screen a mother for maternal mental health conditions.

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