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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
EXAMINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE CARE OF POSTPARTUM
DEPRESSION

Introduced By: Senator Joshua Miller

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, Postpartum depression confronts new mothers and their families throughout
2 the nation and within the Ocean State. In Rhode Island, more than 1 in 10 new mothers report
3 experiencing frequent postpartum depressive symptoms, including a sad mood, loss of interest in
4 many activities, feelings of worthlessness, problems in thinking or concentrating, and changes in
5 eating or sleeping; and

6 WHEREAS, A number of health care providers regularly see mothers-to-be and new
7 mothers, in doctors' offices, hospitals, and birthing centers. These interactions present
8 opportunities to educate women regarding postpartum depression and screen for this condition;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health works with health care facilities
11 and licensed health care professionals throughout the state to ensure that women have access to
12 quality care during the perinatal period; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby respectfully requests the Director of the Department of Health to examine the state's
15 health care policies and procedures to ensure that women in Rhode Island and their families have
16 the opportunity to become educated about and screened for postpartum depression; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Director to oversee the
19 creation of educational materials about postpartum depression, including its symptoms, methods

1 of coping with the illness, and treatment resources available to them, in order to ensure that all
2 birthing facilities in the state provide this information to departing new mothers and fathers and
3 other family members, as appropriate, and to ensure that these materials align with the
4 recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Director to provide the
6 Senate with a written report on or before January 7, 2016, that describes the type and frequency
7 of screening for postpartum depression that is provided to women in their postnatal care, prior to
8 their discharge from the birthing facility, and at the first few postnatal check-up visits; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
12 Health, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), and the
13 Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
14 (BHDDH).

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