A bill to be entitled
An act relating to perinatal mental health; providing
a short title; creating s. 383.014, F.S.; requiring
the Department of Health to establish and maintain a
toll-free hotline accessible to the general public and
a toll-free hotline accessible to health care
providers; requiring the department to create public
service announcements to educate the public on
perinatal mental health care; requiring the department
to encourage certain health care providers to attend
continuing medical education courses on perinatal
mental health care; amending s. 383.318, F.S.;
revising components that are included in the
postpartum evaluation and followup care provided by
birth centers to include a mental health screening and
the provision of certain information on postpartum
depression; amending s. 395.1053, F.S.; requiring
hospitals that provide birthing services to provide
the same postpartum evaluation and followup care that
is required to be provided by birth centers; providing
an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Perinatal Mental Health
Coalition released its 2017 Maternal Mental Health Needs
Assessment, which found that perinatal mental illness is the
leading health complication related to pregnancy and birth, and
WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 5 mothers nationally will
experience Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMD), and
WHEREAS, as many as 1 in 10 fathers will also experience
WHEREAS, Florida loses approximately $900 million annually because of the failure to recognize and treat perinatal mental illnesses, and

WHEREAS, approximately 44,000 Florida babies are born to a parent experiencing a perinatal mental illness, and those babies may experience social, emotional, and cognitive detriments if their affected parents do not have access to proper care or receive treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Families First Act."

Section 2. Section 383.014, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

383.014 Perinatal mental health care.—By January 1, 2019, the Department of Health shall:

(1) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care toll-free hotline, accessible to the general public, which:

(a) Provides basic information on postpartum depression and perinatal care;

(b) May recommend that a caller or patient be further evaluated by a qualified health care provider; and

(c) May refer a caller or patient to an appropriate health care provider in the caller’s or patient’s local area.

(2) Establish and maintain a perinatal mental health care provider toll-free hotline for health care providers, as defined in s. 408.07, which:
(a) Provides information to assist health care providers in addressing the mental health of a pregnant or postpartum patient;

(b) Maintains and offers the contact information of health care providers throughout the state who have experience in caring for pregnant or postpartum patients; and

(c) Compiles resources to encourage the efficient and coordinated care of pregnant or postpartum patients.

(3) Create public service announcements (PSAs) to educate the public on perinatal mental health care. The PSAs must include the telephone number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established in subsection (1).

(4) Encourage mental health care providers, and health care providers who conduct postpartum evaluations or treat postpartum patients, to attend continuing medical education courses on perinatal mental health care.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 383.318, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

383.318 Postpartum care for birth center clients and infants.—

(3) The birth center shall provide a postpartum evaluation and followup care that includes all of the following shall be provided, which shall include:

(a) Physical examination of the infant.

(b) Metabolic screening tests required by s. 383.14.

(c) Referral to sources for pediatric care.

(d) Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates mental health screening.

(e) Information on postpartum depression and the telephone
number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established in s. 383.014.

(f) Instruction in child care, including immunization, breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, and possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.

(g) Family planning services.

(h) Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as indicated.

Section 4. Section 395.1053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

395.1053 Postpartum care and education.—A hospital that provides birthing services shall provide a postpartum evaluation and followup care that includes all of the following:

1. Physical examination of the infant.
3. Referral to sources for pediatric care.
4. Maternal postpartum assessment that incorporates mental health screening.
5. Information on postpartum depression and the telephone number of the perinatal mental health care hotline established in s. 383.014.
6. Instruction in child care, including immunization, breastfeeding, incorporate information on safe sleep practices, and the possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death into the hospital’s postpartum instruction on the care of newborns.
7. Family planning services.
8. Referral to secondary or tertiary care, as indicated.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.