AN ACT

1 Requiring information relating to parenting and prenatal
2 depression, postpartum depression, postpartum psychosis and
3 other emotional trauma counseling and screening to be
4 provided to a pregnant woman; and providing for the powers
5 and duties of the Department of Health.
6
7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:
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10 Section 1. Short title.
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12 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Prenatal and
13 Postpartum Counseling and Screening Act.
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15 Section 2. Counseling information and screening.
16 (a) Duty to provide.--A hospital, birthing center,
17 physician, nurse-midwife or midwife who provides prenatal care
18 to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant
19 shall:
20 (1) Provide the woman with a fact sheet that includes
21 common symptoms of the medical conditions of prenatal
22 depression, postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis
23 and for emotional traumas associated with pregnancy and
parenting. The fact sheet shall present, in a prominent place, the following statement:

Prenatal depression, postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis are serious medical conditions that require a physician's evaluation and recommendations for treatment. If you are suffering from any of the signs and symptoms of these conditions, you should immediately inform your treating physician or psychiatric physician.

(2) Provide the woman with a resource list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of professional organizations that provide prenatal counseling, postpartum counseling and assistance to parents.

(3) Screen the woman for postpartum depression symptoms prior to discharge from the birthing facility and at the first few postnatal check-up visits.

(4) Document in the patient's record that the patient received the information described in paragraph (1).

(5) Retain the documentation for at least three years in the hospital's, birthing center's, physician's, nurse-midwife's or midwife's records.

(b) Resources to be included.--The information under subsection (a) shall include resources a pregnant woman may contact to receive treatment, counseling and assistance for the medical conditions of prenatal depression, postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis and for emotional traumas associated with pregnancy and parenting.

(c) Presumption of compliance.--A hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse-midwife or midwife who provides prenatal care to a woman during gestation or at delivery is presumed to have complied with this section if the woman received prior prenatal
care from another hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse-
midwife or midwife in this Commonwealth during the same
pregnancy.

The Department of Health shall:

(1) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations if
necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this
act.

(2) Enforce this act and the rules and regulations
promulgated under this act.

(3) Make available on the department's publicly
accessible Internet website a printable list of professional
organizations that provide pregnancy counseling and
assistance to parents, along with a fact sheet and the
statement as referenced in section 2(a)(1).

(4) Update the list required under paragraph (3) on a
monthly basis.

Section 4. Effective date.
This act shall take effect in 60 days.