

A RESOLUTION

24-604

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 20, 2022

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Establishment Act of 2022 to remove the requirement that the Council confirm each appointee, and to extend the deadline for the submission of the Task Force's final report.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Emergency Resolution of 2022".

Sec. 2. (a) The Department of Health Care Finance ("DHCF") plays a critical role in improving maternal health outcomes in the District of Columbia.

(b) DHCF has committed to undertaking multiple maternal health projects, including covering doula services, expanding postpartum coverage to one year, and extending non-emergency medical transportation benefits to pregnant and postpartum Healthcare Alliance beneficiaries.

(c) To oversee and effectively implement these projects, DHCF has set up both the Maternal Child Health Advisory Council and the Maternal Health Advisory Group, with appointees named by the agency Director. The addition of the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force and the Director's ability to appoint the Task Force's members and begin work are instrumental to the success of these projects.

(d) The emergency legislation would remove the requirement that the Council confirm each appointment and would extend the deadline for the submission of the comprehensive report from August 31, 2023, to October 1, 2023.

(e) These changes would expedite the process of appointing members to the Task Force and would give the task force 75 additional days to complete its work and are necessary to ensure adequate time for the Task Force to write its report and make the statutorily required 9 policy recommendations. Additionally, it is necessary to approve the emergency legislation prior to October 1, 2022, as the law currently requires the Mayor to begin nominating individuals to the Task Force on that date, in alignment with the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.