

House Bill 1155

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Oliver of the 82nd, Beverly of the 143rd, Williams of the 37th, and Glaize of the 67th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 33-24-58.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 the "Newborn Baby and Mother Protection Act," minimum health policy coverage,
3 prohibited actions by insurance providers, and required notice to mother, so as to mandate
4 coverage when pediatricians offer and provide mothers with screening for perinatal mood
5 and anxiety disorders; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 33-24-58.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 "Newborn Baby and Mother Protection Act," minimum health policy coverage, prohibited
11 actions by insurance providers, and required notice to mother, is amended by revising
12 subsections (a) and (d) as follows:

13 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Attending provider' means:

15 (A) Pediatricians and other physicians attending the newborn; and

16 (B) Obstetricians, other physicians, and certified nurse midwives attending the mother.

17 (2) 'Health benefit policy' means any individual or group plan, policy, or contract for
18 ~~health care~~ healthcare services issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this
19 state, including those contracts executed by the state on behalf of indigents and on behalf
20 of state employees under Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45, by a ~~health care~~ healthcare
21 corporation, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, accident
22 and sickness insurer, fraternal benefit society, or other insurer or similar entity.

23 (3) 'Insurer' means an accident and sickness insurer, fraternal benefit society, ~~health care~~
24 healthcare corporation, health maintenance organization, or any similar entity authorized
25 to issue contracts under this title and also means any state program funded under Title
26 XIX of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 1396, et seq., and any other
27 publicly funded state ~~health care~~ healthcare program.

28 (4) 'Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders' means a spectrum of disorders that may
29 include depression, anxiety, panic disorder, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive
30 disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or psychosis."

31 "(d) If a mother and newborn are discharged pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section
32 prior to the postpartum inpatient length of stay provided under subsection (b) of this Code
33 section, coverage shall be provided for up to two follow-up visits, provided that the first
34 such visit shall occur within 48 hours of discharge. Such visits shall be conducted by a
35 physician, a physician assistant, or a registered professional nurse with experience and
36 training in maternal and child health nursing. After conferring with the mother, the ~~health~~
37 ~~care~~ healthcare provider shall determine whether the initial visit will be conducted at home
38 or at the office. Thereafter, he or she shall confer with the mother and determine whether
39 a second visit is appropriate and where it shall be conducted. Services provided shall
40 include, but not be limited to, physical assessment of the newborn, parent education,
41 assistance and training in ~~breast~~ breastfeeding or ~~bottle feeding~~ bottle-feeding, assessment
42 of the home support system, and the performance of any medically necessary and
43 appropriate clinical tests. Such services shall be consistent with protocols and guidelines

44 developed by national pediatric, obstetric, and nursing professional organizations for these
45 services; provided, however, that pediatricians may offer and provide mothers with
46 screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders."

47 **SECTION 2.**

48 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025, and shall apply to all policies issued,
49 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after such date.

50 **SECTION 3.**

51 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.