

SENATE No. 2482

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to improving access to treatment for individuals with perinatal substance use disorder.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 72. (a) There shall be a special commission to evaluate the barriers to substance
4 use treatment for women in the perinatal period. The special commission shall consist of: the
5 secretary of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as the chair; the
6 commissioner of the department of public health or a designee, who shall be appointed based on
7 expertise in family and infant health; the commissioner of the department of mental health or a
8 designee, who shall be appointed based on expertise in maternal mental health and the
9 intersection of substance use disorder; the commissioner of the department of children and
10 families or a designee, who shall be appointed based on experience with providing support and
11 stabilization services to families impacted by substance use disorder; the director of the bureau of
12 substance addiction services or a designee, who shall be appointed based on experience with
13 coordinating substance use treatment for women; the director of MassHealth or a designee; four

14 members appointed by the governor, who shall include: one person from the Massachusetts
15 Child Psychiatric Access Program for Moms, one person from the Perinatal and Neonatal
16 Quality Improvement Network, one person from the Boston Medical Center’s Project
17 RESPECT, one person who is a woman with experience seeking treatment in the perinatal
18 period; two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the president and one of
19 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; and two members of the house of
20 representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker and one of whom shall be
21 appointed by the minority leader.

22 (b) Said special commission shall develop recommendations to remove barriers to
23 treatment for perinatal substance use disorder, including but not limited to, insurance coverage;
24 access to medication assisted treatment; access to mental health treatment; access to treatment
25 postpartum depression to facilitate parenting; screening for substance use disorder; and the
26 integration of perinatal care and substance use treatment. In developing recommendations, the
27 special commission may coordinate and consult with other commissions and entities, as
28 appropriate. The special commission shall submit a report, with its recommendations to the
29 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the senate and house committees on ways
30 and means, the joint committee on mental health and substance use and recovery and the joint
31 committee on children, families and persons with disabilities not later than one year after it’s first
32 meeting.