



S.F. No. 1085 (as proposed to be amended by the A-2 amendment) – Health plans requirement to develop a maternal mental health program

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Bill Overview

S.F. 1085 requires health plans to develop and include a maternal mental health program that covers screenings, treatment, and referrals during the pregnancy and postpartum periods. The legislation establishes reimbursement requirements, prohibits unreasonable delays in referring patients to qualified behavioral health professionals, and extends coverage for such maternal mental health programs to Minnesota’s public health care programs.

Section Summaries

Section 1 (adds Minn. Stat. § 62A.0411, subd. 3a; Maternal mental health program required)

This section requires health plans to include a maternal mental health program. It further specifies that the maternal mental health program must:

1. Ensure comprehensive and effective care for pregnant and postpartum individuals;
2. Require at least one maternal mental health screening to be conducted during pregnancy, at least one additional screening to be conducted during the first six weeks of the postpartum period, and additional postpartum screenings, if determined to be medically necessary and clinically appropriate in the judgment of the treating provider;
3. Reimburse health care professionals for screening, diagnosis, coordination, and other program services at an amount at least equal to the cost of providing those services; and
4. Provide health care professionals with resources and referrals to trained perinatal mental health providers and support networks to ensure timely and effective care.

This section 1 also prohibits a health plan from intentionally or unreasonably delaying a referral to a qualified behavioral health care professional when clinically indicated, including, but not limited to, a positive test result for a mental health condition or an enrollee reporting suicidal ideation during the perinatal period.

Effective date. This section is effective January 1, 2026, and applies to all policies, plans, certificates, and contracts offered, issued, or renewed on or after that date.

Section 2 (adds Minn. Stat. § 256B.0671, subd. 14; Maternal mental health program) This section requires the medical assistance program and MinnesotaCare to include and cover a maternal mental health program. This program must meet the requirements set forth in section 1 of the bill, except where compliance with that section would impair federal financial participation for the medical assistance program.

Effective date. This section is effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.

Section 3 (Appropriations) This section appropriates money to the commissioner of human services for costs associated with the coverage of a maternal mental health program in medical assistance program and MinnesotaCare.



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