
SENATE BILL 5898

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Brandland, Pridemore, Hargrove, Thibaudeau, Oke, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/11/2005. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to postpartum depression; adding new sections to
2 chapter 43.121 RCW; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that postpartum depression is a serious
7 condition that affects women of all ages, economic status, and racial
8 and ethnic backgrounds. Postpartum depression includes a range of
9 physical and emotional changes that many mothers can have following the
10 birth of a child, which can be treated with medication and counseling.
11 If untreated, however, postpartum depression can lead to further
12 depression, self-destructive behavior, or even suicide, as well as
13 child abuse, neglect, or death of the infant or other siblings.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The council shall conduct a proactive, public information and
17 communication outreach campaign concerning the significance, signs, and
18 treatment of postpartum depression.

1 The public information campaign may, within available funds,
2 include production and distribution of a brochure and communication by
3 electronic media, telephone hotlines, and existing parenting education
4 events funded by the council.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or
6 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general
7 fund to the children's trust fund for the fiscal year ending June 30,
8 2006, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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