

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2022
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB905

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 19, 2022
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Walz
One Liner: Provide for perinatal mental health screenings

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Arch, Cavanaugh, M., Day, Hansen, B., Murman, Walz, Williams
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Lynne Walz
Ann Anderson Berry
Sydnie Carraher
Priscilla LaCroix
Mel St. Germain

Christian Minter
Dexter Schrodtt
Christine Jones
Sara Howard

Opponents:

Neutral:

Representing:

District 15
Children's Hospital and Medical Center
Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative
Self
Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Nebraska Chapter
of the American Academy of Pediatrics
March of Dimes
Nebraska Medical Association
Nebraska Children's Home Society
First Five Nebraska

Representing:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 905 would authorize the Board of Medicine and Surgery to work with accredited hospitals and licensed health care professionals to create a referral network and develop policies, procedures, information, and educational materials to facilitate perinatal mental health screening and education by licensed health care professionals. (Section 7, page 2, lines 21-25.)

LB 905 defines "perinatal mental health disorder" as a mental health condition that occurs during pregnancy or during the postpartum period, including depression, anxiety, or postpartum psychosis. (Section 3, page 2, lines 8-10.)

The education and screening authorized by LB 905 would be conducted and reviewed in accordance with the formal

opinions and recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics and consist of:

Education to pregnant patients (and their families, with the patient's permission) about perinatal mental health disorders; and
Screening questionnaires which licensed health care professionals may invite pregnant patients to complete at a prenatal visit, postpartum patients to complete at a postnatal visit, and mothers to complete at any well-child checkup during the infant's first year. (Section 7, page 2, lines 21-31; page 3, lines 1-20.)

The questionnaire would be a screening tool, such as the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, the Postpartum Depression Screening Scale, the Beck Depression Inventory, the Patient Health Questionnaire, or another validated screening method. (Section 6, page 2, lines 16-20.)

Explanation of amendments:

AM 1609 would strike the original sections of LB 905 and become the bill. AM 1609 would not change the effect of LB 905, but rather would copy the substance of the bill into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act, in addition to the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act.

As introduced, LB 905 inserted new sections in to the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act to provide for perinatal mental health screenings to be performed by licensed health care professionals. The bill defined 'licensed health care professional' as a physician, an osteopathic physician, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant.

By copying the substantive provision of LB 905 into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act-and removing advanced practice registered nurses from the definition of "licensed health care professional" under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act-the amendment maintains the separation in current statute between advanced practice registered nurses, which are licensed under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Act, and physicians, osteopaths, and physician assistants, which are licensed under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act.

John Arch, Chairperson