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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 352
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 352's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Weinstein and Timken

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Ryan Sherrock, Senior Economist

Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$2.0 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to use to partner with specialized perinatal behavioral health access to care organizations.
- The bill permits health care and behavioral health professionals to conduct perinatal behavioral health screenings. Government-owned hospitals could realize costs if employees conduct such screenings. However, if screenings are performed, the hospital could receive reimbursements.
- The bill permits health insurers to cover perinatal behavioral health screenings. If any state or local government health plan does not currently provide coverage but chooses to do so, then costs could increase.

Detailed Analysis

Perinatal behavioral health screenings

The bill permits health care professionals and behavioral health professionals to screen women for behavioral health disorders as part of perinatal care provided to the woman or pediatric care provided to an infant under one year old. If a behavioral health screening indicates a woman is experiencing or at risk of experiencing a behavioral health disorder and the professional who screened her is not a provider of specialized perinatal behavioral health services, the professional is required to offer the woman a referral. The bill also requires the professional who conducts a screening to immediately notify the emergency personnel or follow any emergency protocol established in the professional's practice setting if the screening indicates that the woman is at risk of immediate harm to self or others. Government-owned hospitals could realize an increase in costs if professionals employed by them screen women for

these disorders. Additionally, these entities could also realize costs to establish an emergency protocol if one has not already been established. However, the hospital could receive reimbursements for any screenings conducted. It appears that the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) currently provides coverage for perinatal behavioral health screenings. ODM's perinatal risk assessment form has a section that has a practitioner check a box to show that a maternal behavioral health screening has been performed and to list the name of the tool used for this screening. It also has a section for a practitioner to show he or she has provided a referral for behavioral health services.¹

The bill also permits health insurers to provide coverage for the screenings authorized by the bill and specifies that it does not prohibit imposing a cost-sharing requirement for that coverage. If a state or local health plan does not currently provide coverage for these services but chooses to do so, the plan could realize costs.

Statewide referral resources

The bill requires the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to designate one or more specialized perinatal behavioral health programs to serve as statewide perinatal referral resources. The bill requires a designated program to demonstrate the capacity to provide or coordinate access to peer support, behavioral health care navigation, and other resources for pregnant and postpartum women experiencing or at risk of experiencing behavioral health disorders. Additionally, the bill requires DBH to ensure that any designated program is accessible to patients.

The bill appropriates \$2.0 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 for DBH to use to partner with specialized perinatal behavioral health access to care organizations to offer direct referrals for those who are screened for perinatal behavioral health conditions.

¹ [Perinatal Risk Assessment Form \(PDF\)](#), which can be accessed conducting a “pregnancy risk form” keyword search on ODM’s website: [medicaid.ohio.gov/](https://www.medicicaid.ohio.gov/).