

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7214

AN ACT CONCERNING MATERNAL HEALTH.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	66,400	79,700
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	23,600	32,300
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	26,200	None
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Potential Cost	10,700	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill, which includes various provisions regarding maternal health, results in a total cost to the General Fund of \$90,000 in FY 26 and \$112,000 in FY 27 and annually thereafter, and a potential cost of \$36,900 in FY 26 as described below. These fiscal impacts are associated with personnel needs in the Department of Public Health (DPH) related to Sections 2 and 3 as described below.

Section 1 establishes a Perinatal Mental Health Task Force to study and make recommendations on improving perinatal mental health care services, which results in no fiscal impact. The task force has the expertise needed to meet the requirements of the bill.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

Section 2 requires the DPH commissioner to create an annual maternity care report card² for birth centers and hospitals that provide obstetric care, as well as establish an advisory committee to support this work. This results in a cost to DPH of \$66,400 in FY 26 and \$79,700 in FY 27 (and annually thereafter), with an estimated cost to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits of \$23,600 in FY 26 and \$32,300 in FY 27 (and annually thereafter). FY 26 costs reflect an October 1 start date for all staff.³

To develop the report card, DPH requires two half-time positions: (1) a Health Program Associate, at an annualized salary of \$35,800 (plus \$14,600 annualized fringe benefits) to coordinate the advisory committee and perform related administrative duties; and (2) an Epidemiologist 3, at an annualized cost of \$43,500 (plus \$17,700 annualized fringe benefits) to identify, collect and analyze data necessary to complete the report card.

Other expenses include a one-time total cost of \$8,400 in FY 26 for laptops and related hardware, and ongoing annual costs of \$400 for software and general office supplies.

Section 3, which requires the DPH commissioner to convene an advisory committee to study and report by February 1, 2026, on making hospitals more doula-friendly, results in a potential cost to the agency of \$26,200 in FY 26, with an estimated potential cost to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits of \$10,700 in FY 26. It is anticipated that this work may be facilitated by the assistance of an existing advisory body having expertise on doula matters.⁴ However, if the existing advisory body lacks the authority or administrative capacity to meet the responsibilities of this bill, then an additional part-time (0.5 FTE) Health Program Associate would be needed to coordinate the

² The report card must include: (1) quantitative metrics; (2) qualitative measures based on patient-reported experiences; and (3) an equity score and grade for each facility, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and income level.

³ FY 26 staff costs total \$58,000 with \$23,600 in associated fringe benefits.

⁴ PA 22-58 created a Doula Advisory Committee within DPH, as well as a related Doula Training Program Review Committee.

study and perform related administrative duties.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.