

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 446**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;  
and then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §16-1-8a, relating to including postpartum depression, anxiety, psychosis, and  
3 obsessive-compulsive disorders in existing public health programs.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.**

### **§16-1-8a. Inclusion of postpartum depression, anxiety, psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorders in existing public health programs.**

1 (a) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health, in partnership with the Bureau for  
2 Medical Services, shall, in its existing public health programs and services, educate health care  
3 professionals on the importance of early detection and timely diagnosis of postpartum depression,  
4 anxiety, psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorders through the use of assessment tools and  
5 effective care planning and care management at all stages of pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum  
6 care for up to one year after birth and through the delivery of counseling and referral programs.

7 (b) The Bureau for Public Health, in partnership with the Bureau for Medical Services,  
8 shall, in its existing, relevant public health outreach programs, incorporate information to increase  
9 understanding and awareness of postpartum depression, anxiety, psychosis, and obsessive-  
10 compulsive disorder including information about the early signs of postpartum depression that  
11 should be discussed with health care professionals and the value of early detection and diagnosis,  
12 particularly among persons who are at greater risk of developing postpartum depression, anxiety,  
13 psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

14 (c) Any public awareness and/or educational outreach programs shall provide uniform,  
15 consistent guidance in nonclinical terms, with an emphasis on cultural relevancy and health  
16 literacy.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to include postpartum depression, anxiety, psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorders in existing public health programs.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.