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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Postpartum help bill signed into law," 4-14-2006, The Times, p. A6

"State mandates screening of postpartum depression," 4-14-2006, Star Ledger, p.24

"Postpartum lifeline: Codeys celebrate signing of bill...", 4-14-2006, The Record, p. L1

RWH 2/28/08

P.L. 2006, CHAPTER 12, *approved April 13, 2006*  
Senate, No. 213

1 AN ACT concerning postpartum depression and amending P.L.2000,  
2 c.167.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2000, c.167 (C.26:2-176) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in  
10 conjunction with the State Board of Medical Examiners and the  
11 New Jersey Board of Nursing, shall work with health care facilities  
12 and licensed health care professionals in the State to develop  
13 policies and procedures **[which meet the following objectives that**  
14 **address the issue of postpartum depression]** to achieve the  
15 following requirements concerning postpartum depression:

16 a. Physicians, nurse midwives and other licensed health care  
17 professionals providing prenatal care to women **[should]** shall  
18 provide education to women and their families about postpartum  
19 depression in order to lower the likelihood that new mothers will  
20 continue to suffer from this illness in silence;

21 b. All birthing facilities in the State **[should]** shall provide  
22 departing new mothers and fathers and other family members, as  
23 appropriate, with complete information about postpartum  
24 depression, including its symptoms, methods of coping with the  
25 illness and treatment resources;

26 c. Physicians, nurse midwives and other licensed health care  
27 professionals providing postnatal care to women **[should]** shall  
28 screen new mothers for postpartum depression symptoms prior to  
29 discharge from the birthing facility and at the first few postnatal  
30 check-up visits; and

31 d. Physicians, nurse midwives and other licensed health care  
32 professionals providing prenatal and postnatal care to women  
33 **[should]** shall include fathers and other family members, as  
34 appropriate, in both the education and treatment processes to help  
35 them better understand the nature and causes of postpartum  
36 depression so that they too can overcome the spillover effects of the  
37 illness and improve their ability to be supportive of the new mother.  
38 (cf: P.L.2000, c.167, s.2)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,  
41 except that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall  
42 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be  
43 necessary for its implementation.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted  
and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

**S213**

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Requires certain health care professionals to provide information

4

and screening for postpartum depression.

# SENATE, No. 213

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator DIANE B. ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Madden and Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires certain health care professionals to provide information and screening for postpartum depression.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2006)**

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STATEMENT

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This bill requires licensed health care professionals providing prenatal care to educate women and their families about postpartum depression, and licensed health care professionals providing postnatal care to screen new mothers for the disorder. Under current law, licensed health care professionals are encouraged, but not required, to provide these services.

Eighty percent of women experience some level of the baby blues after giving birth. These symptoms usually begin one to two days after giving birth and last for about two weeks. However, one in eight women experiences a more serious condition known as postpartum depression. This translates into approximately 11,000 to 16,000 women in New Jersey each year.

By requiring health care professionals to provide information and screening for postpartum depression, this bill increases the likelihood that new mothers with the disorder will get appropriate treatment and will be able to overcome its effects.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 213**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2006

This bill requires licensed health care professionals providing prenatal care to educate women and their families about postpartum depression, and licensed health care professionals providing postnatal care to screen new mothers for the disorder. Under current law, licensed health care professionals are encouraged, but not required, to provide these services.

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# ASSEMBLY, No. 1325

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **PETER J. BIONDI**

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman **CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblymen **Manzo and Gordon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires certain health care professionals to provide information and screening for postpartum depression.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2006)

1 AN ACT concerning postpartum depression and amending P.L.2000,  
2 c.167.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
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18 provide education to women and their families about postpartum  
19 depression in order to lower the likelihood that new mothers will  
20 continue to suffer from this illness in silence;

21 b. All birthing facilities in the State [should] shall provide  
22 departing new mothers and fathers and other family members, as  
23 appropriate, with complete information about postpartum  
24 depression, including its symptoms, methods of coping with the  
25 illness and treatment resources;

26 c. Physicians, nurse midwives and other licensed health care  
27 professionals providing postnatal care to women [should] shall  
28 screen new mothers for postpartum depression symptoms prior to  
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31 d. Physicians, nurse midwives and other licensed health care  
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36 depression so that they too can overcome the spillover effects of the  
37 illness and improve their ability to be supportive of the new mother.  
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40 2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,  
41 except that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall  
42 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be  
43 necessary for its implementation.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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Eighty percent of women experience some level of the baby blues after giving birth. These symptoms usually begin one to two days after giving birth and last for about two weeks. However, one in eight women experiences a more serious condition known as postpartum depression. This translates into approximately 11,000 to 16,000 women in New Jersey each year.

By requiring health care professionals to provide information and screening for postpartum depression, this bill increases the likelihood that new mothers with the disorder will get appropriate treatment and will be able to overcome its effects.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1325**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2006

This bill amends N.J.S.A.26:2-176 to require that licensed health care professionals providing prenatal care to women educate women and their families about postpartum depression, and that licensed health care professionals providing postnatal care to women screen new mothers for the disorder. Under the current statute, licensed health care professionals are encouraged, but not required, to provide these services.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 213 (Allen/Codey), which is currently pending before the Senate.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2006-2007 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

## Apr-13-06 Corzine Signs Postpartum Depression Screening Bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Anthony Coley

Brendan Gilfillan

PHONE: 609-777-2600

### Corzine Signs Postpartum Depression Screening Bill

**HACKENSACK** - Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation requiring health care professionals providing postnatal care to screen new mothers for postpartum depression, and requiring health care professionals providing prenatal care to educate women and their families about the disorder. Governor Corzine signed the bill at a public ceremony at Hackensack University Medical Center where he was joined by Senate President and former Governor, Richard J. Codey and his wife Mary Jo Codey.

"The birth of a child is a time for celebration, but also a time for concern as 80 percent of women in New Jersey experience some form of depression after giving birth," Corzine said. "This new law will make postpartum depression screening a requirement rather than an option, and that's a significant and positive step for New Jersey's mothers, newborns and families."

Approximately 80 percent of women in New Jersey experience some level of depression after childbirth. Typically the symptoms begin two days after birth and last approximately two weeks. However, one in eight women who give birth, and approximately 11,000 to 16,000 women in New Jersey, experience a more serious condition known as postpartum depression each year.

"I know, first-hand, the grief caused by postpartum depression and it is not something that any woman should have to suffer alone in silence." said Senator Codey. "This law will make sure that every woman facing the fear and uncertainty of postpartum depression will have someone to look out for them, to

help them recognize the signs of postpartum depression and to get them the help they need. Today we are not just providing a safety net, we're building a support system."

The law will increase the likelihood that new mothers suffering from postpartum depression will get appropriate treatment and will be able to overcome its effects. The law goes into effect 180 days after being signed by Governor Corzine. The Department of Health and Senior Services will work with hospitals and health care providers to implement the new law.

The legislation (S-213/A-1325) was sponsored by Senate President Richard J. Codey (D-Essex) and Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington, Camden). An identical bill was sponsored in the Assembly by Peter Biondi (R-Morris, Somerset) and Christopher Bateman (R-Morris, Somerset). The bill passed both houses unanimously.