

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 148**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Lowenthal**

May 7, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 148—Relative to maternal mental health care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 148, as introduced, Lowenthal. Task Force on the Status of Maternal Mental Health Care.

This measure would request the California Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, a nonprofit organization, to establish a task force on the status of maternal mental health care.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2010, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 105  
2 (Resolution Chapter 9 of the Statutes of 2010) was enacted and  
3 proclaimed the Month of May, each year, as Perinatal Depression  
4 Awareness Month in California, and called for the formation of a  
5 volunteer task force. As a result of Assembly Concurrent  
6 Resolution 105, the California Maternal Mental Health  
7 Collaborative, an independent nonprofit organization, was formed;  
8 and  
9 WHEREAS, Women in their childbearing years account for the  
10 largest group of Americans with depression. The mental health of  
11 women before, during, and after childbirth is an issue of great  
12 concern to women, their families, and their physicians and;  
13 therefore, is of interest to the Legislature; and

1 WHEREAS, Maternal depression and other mood disorders are  
2 serious and debilitating, but treatable disorders. Children born to  
3 mothers with untreated depression are more likely to have  
4 developmental problems and higher utilization of medical and  
5 mental health care over their lifetimes. Therefore, it is critical that  
6 women who are suffering from depression or another maternal  
7 mental health disorder be diagnosed and treated; and

8 WHEREAS, A task force should be established to study, review,  
9 and identify (1) current barriers to screening and diagnosis, (2)  
10 current treatment options for both those who are privately insured  
11 and those who receive care through the public health system, and  
12 (3) evidence based and emerging treatment options that are scalable  
13 in public and private health settings. The task force should also  
14 identify provider population needs and patient needs in order to  
15 improve diagnosis and treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, The task force should consist of 12 to 18 members,  
17 appointed by the California Maternal Mental Health Collaborative  
18 in consultation with the Assembly and Senate Committees on  
19 Health, and include representation from organizations such as the  
20 State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department  
21 of Public Health, the Office of Perinatal Substance Abuse, the  
22 State Department of Developmental Services, the Children and  
23 Family Services Division of the State Department of Social  
24 Services, First 5 California, the American Congress of Obstetricians  
25 and Gynecologists, and other stakeholders; and

26 WHEREAS, The task force should meet at least eight times a  
27 year. Members of the task force will not be compensated, but may  
28 be reimbursed for travel expenses by the California Maternal  
29 Mental Health Collaborative, to the extent available, for the  
30 purpose of attending meetings of the task force. The task force  
31 should be funded by private sources; and

32 WHEREAS, The task force should make recommendations in  
33 a white paper no later than December 31, 2015, which should  
34 address changes necessary within state and county programs and  
35 any other areas deemed necessary; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature, therefore, requests the  
38 California Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, a nonprofit  
39 organization, to establish a task force on the status of maternal

- 1 mental health care in order to further the objectives described in
- 2 this resolution; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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