

HB 1346 – GA Maternal Mental Health Improvement Act

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 1346](#) - The bill requires that healthcare providers screen pregnant and postpartum women for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders at regular intervals during pregnancy and 12 months postpartum. It ensures these screenings are covered by health insurance policies in Georgia. It also establishes a three-year pilot program for remote maternal mental health screening through the Department of Public Health.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	<p>82% of Georgians across party lines agree with initiatives on the importance of reducing maternal mortality. Public health professionals and other experts stress the severity of impacts of maternal health on physical health of both mothers and babies, especially in marginalized women.</p>			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	<p>The maternal mental health screening tool would effectively reach pregnant and postpartum women by including the tool during obstetric or pediatric visits. Overall, this bill is grounded in strong scientific evidence. By requiring coverage, supporting telehealth, and tracking equity metrics, the bill translates established guidelines and evidence into scalable policy. However, the tool will not be accessible to women who are unable to or do not seek out medical health visits.</p>			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	<p>Georgia experiences rates of maternal mortality are the second highest in the nation, with 66.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. Mental health conditions are among the primary causes of pregnancy-related deaths; maternal mental health (MMH) disorders affect 20% of families yearly. MMH disorders can include anxiety, depression, OCD, and bipolar, and around 15% of pregnancy-related deaths were caused by mental health conditions. Less than 20% of women are screened for MMH disorders despite the need existing.</p>			
Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	<p>Screenings are cost-effective with a strong potential for cost-saving benefits. The net benefit of intervention has been estimated to be above \$10,000 per intervened case.</p>			

Science for Georgia, Inc.

1700 Northside Dr, Ste A7, PMB 916, Atlanta, GA 30318

Scienceforgeorgia.org • info@sci4ga.org

© Science for Georgia, 2026



Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	This bill is bipartisan sponsored but remains in committee.			
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	As outlined in the bill, the metrics that can be used include the annual reports to the Senate Health and Human Services committee and the House committees on Health and Public Health. The data collected and reported include process and outcome measures of the screening tool.			