

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1644

By: Representatives Scott, V. Flowers

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH  
HOTLINE IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH  
HOTLINE IN ARKANSAS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 47, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-47-110. Maternal Mental Health Hotline.

(a)(1) The Department of Health shall establish the "Maternal Mental Health Hotline".

(2) The department may contract with vendors to maintain the Maternal Mental Health Hotline.

(b)(1) The Maternal Mental Health Hotline shall be staffed twenty-four (24) hours per day and shall have statewide accessibility through a toll-free telephone number.

(2) The toll-free telephone number under this section shall be known as the "Maternal Mental Health Hotline".

(3)(A) The Maternal Mental Health Hotline shall be part of the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline network by utilizing existing telephone, text, and online chat communications.

(B) The Maternal Mental Health Hotline shall meet all accreditation requirements set forth by the United States Health Resources



and Services Administration.

(c) All persons may use the Maternal Mental Health Hotline to assist with maternal depression and substance use screenings before, during, and after pregnancy.