STATE OF NEW YORK

5056

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 18, 2025

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the department of health examine heat vulnerability and heat-related deaths

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 212 to read as follows:

§ 212. Heat vulnerability and heat-related deaths. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Heat-exacerbated death" means a death caused by natural causes estimated by the department to have resulted from an existing health condition exacerbated by extreme, or near extreme, heat.

(i) Such estimation shall be determined using one or more statistical models by the department.

(ii) At least one such model used by the department shall utilize sensitive statistical methods that assess daily temperature as a continuous variable in relation to daily mortality to estimate heat-exacerbated deaths, without the use of a qualifying temperature threshold.

(iii) One such model shall utilize sensitive statistical methods that assess daily temperature as a continuous variable in relation to daily mortality to estimate heat-exacerbated deaths, without the use of a qualifying temperature threshold.

(b) "Heat stress death" means a death directly attributed to heat on a death certificate, or with an underlying or contributing cause of (i) excessive natural heat or (ii) the effects of heat and light, as such conditions are defined in the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases, published by the World Health Organization.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(c) "Heat vulnerability" means the estimated risk of heat stress deaths and heat exacerbated deaths occurring in a geographical area based on social and environmental factors identified by the department.

2. The department is hereby authorized and directed to issue an annual report examining heat vulnerability and heat-related deaths in the state. Such report shall include but not be limited to:

(a) the number of heat stress deaths in the most recent year available;

(b) the estimation of past heat-exacerbated deaths based on the most recent available years of data and the smallest interval of time that yields a reliable estimate;

(c) a description of the relative heat vulnerability of each census tract;

(d) a description of reported data;

(e) a description of social and environmental factors assessed by the department to determine heat vulnerability;

(f) a description of methods used to derive heat vulnerability and estimate heat-exacerbated deaths; and

(g) the aggregate demographic information of heat stress deaths, including, but not limited to, the age, gender, census tract and the race or ethnicity of the decedents.

3. No report required by this section shall contain personal identifying information.

4. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

5. Such report shall be submitted to the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than June fifteenth, two thousand twenty-six and annually thereafter. Such report shall be conspicuously posted on the department's website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.