STATE OF NEW YORK

813

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the department of health to evaluate and make recommendations related to maternal health care and birthing best practices; to amend a chapter of the laws of 2024 requiring the department of health to convene a maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7702-A and A. 8207-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal section 1 of such chapter

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

Section 1. Section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 requiring the department of health to convene a maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7702-A and A. 8207-A, is REPEALED.

§ 2. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 2500 of the public health law are renumbered subdivisions 4 and 5 and a new subdivision 3 is added to read as follows:

3. a. The commissioner shall, in conjunction with hospitals, obstetricians, midwives, doulas, maternal health care provider organizations; mental health care provider organizations; and any additional stakeholders that the commissioner deems necessary, evaluate and make recommendations related to the development of maternal health care and birthing best practices which support each patient receiving the highest quality of care. These recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, best practices for every patient to receive:

(i) fair, courteous and respectful culturally competent care free of discrimination;

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

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(ii) accurate and judgment-free advice and recommendations that allow for informed decision making and consent regarding care and treatment, including risks, benefits, outcomes and alternative procedures;

(iii) clear, concise and easily understood information about their care and treatment outcomes, medical team and birthing options, the policies and procedures of the hospital or birthing center, and resources available to them;

(iv) an opportunity to discuss their birthing preferences with their care team and have such preferences documented; and

(v) adequate support during their pregnancy, labor and childbirth, including access to doula and mental health services.

b. No later than one year after the effective date of this subdivision the commissioner shall publish such recommendations on the department of health's website and update all relevant materials provided to the public through the department to reflect these standards. Such recommendations shall be updated at least once after publishing and as necessary thereafter.

§ 3. Section 2 of a chapter of the laws of 2024 requiring the department of health to convene a maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7702-A and A. 8207-A, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the [~~ninetieth~~] one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law [~~and shall expire 2 years after such effective date when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed~~].

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that sections one and two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2024 requiring the department of health to convene a maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7702-A and A. 8207-A, takes effect.