

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6044

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. SIMOTAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the newborn health and safety pilot program

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section  
2 2508 to read as follows:

3 § 2508. Newborn health and safety pilot program. There shall be estab-  
4 lished in the department, by the commissioner, a baby box pilot program  
5 designed to reduce infant mortality rates across the state. Through the  
6 baby box pilot program, the commissioner shall provide baby boxes in  
7 areas of greatest need, such as counties or areas with high infant  
8 mortality rates, or counties or areas with poor birth outcomes. The baby  
9 boxes shall be designed to be a safe sleep place for newborn infants and  
10 shall be lined with a firm mattress with a fitted sheet such that it can  
11 double as a bassinet. Baby boxes shall also contain newborn infant care  
12 essentials aimed at promoting safe sleeping practices and other methods  
13 of reducing sudden infant death syndrome, as well as items to encourage  
14 safe and healthy habits for families transitioning to parenting. The  
15 department shall pursue available funding options and make efforts to  
16 establish a public-private partnership with organizations that promote  
17 such causes or manufacture such products in order to seek to obtain  
18 donations for these purposes.

19 The department shall be responsible for monitoring the quality, appro-  
20 priateness and effectiveness of the program and shall report to the  
21 legislature within one year of the effective date of this section on the  
22 program's effectiveness.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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