

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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6044--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2017

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Introduced by M. of A. SIMOTAS, PAULIN, BARNWELL, McDONALD, ROZIC --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- reported and  
referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged,  
bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said  
committee

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

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, 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 safe sleep pilot program. There shall be  
4 established in the department, by the commissioner, a newborn health and  
5 safe sleep pilot program designed to reduce infant mortality rates  
6 across the state. Through the pilot program, the commissioner shall  
7 provide baby boxes or other products aimed at encouraging safe sleep  
8 practices and other sudden infant death syndrome prevention measures in  
9 areas of greatest need, such as counties or areas with high infant  
10 mortality rates, or counties or areas with poor birth outcomes. For  
11 purposes of this section, "baby boxes" shall mean boxes lined with a  
12 firm mattress and a fitted sheet such that it can serve as a safe sleep  
13 place for a newborn, and shall contain newborn infant care essentials  
14 aimed at promoting safe sleeping practices and reducing sudden infant  
15 death syndrome, as well as items to encourage safe and healthy habits  
16 for families transitioning to parenting. Such boxes or other products  
17 may vary by region, in the discretion of the commissioner, to meet the  
18 needs of the relevant community. The department shall pursue available  
19 funding options and make efforts to establish a public-private partner-  
20 ship with organizations that promote such causes or manufacture such  
21 products in order to seek to obtain donations for these purposes.

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

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1     The department shall be responsible for monitoring the quality, appro-  
2     priateness and effectiveness of the program and shall report to the  
3     legislature within one year of the effective date of this section on the  
4     program's effectiveness.

5     § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.