STATE OF NEW YORK

8957

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2018

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 the newborn health and safe sleep study

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

Section 1. Section 2508 of the public health law, as added by chapter 401 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2508. Newborn health and safe sleep [~~pilot program~~] **study**. There shall be established in the department, by the commissioner, a newborn health and safe sleep [~~pilot program~~] **study** designed to reduce infant mortality rates across the state **and enhance existing strategies to improve safe sleep practices. The department, in consultation with health care providers, hospitals, safe sleep product manufacturers, provider groups, the New York state office of children and family services, and any other person or entity the commissioner deems necessary, shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of existing safe sleep practices and identify additional safe sleep practices that reduce infant mortality rates. The study shall include a review of baby boxes and other products aimed at encouraging safe and healthy sleep practices. The department shall report to the legislature within twelve months of the effective date of this section on the results of this study**. [~~Through the pilot program, the commissioner shall provide baby boxes or other products aimed at encouraging safe sleep practices and other sudden infant death syndrome prevention measures in areas of greatest need, such as counties or areas with high infant mortality rates, or counties or areas with poor birth outcomes. For purposes of this section, "baby boxes" shall mean boxes lined with a firm mattress and a fitted sheet such that it can serve as a safe sleep place for a newborn, and shall contain newborn infant care essentials aimed at promoting safe sleeping practices and reducing sudden infant death syndrome, as well as items to encourage safe and healthy habits for families transitioning to parenting. Such boxes or other products may vary by region, in the discretion of the commissioner, to meet the needs~~

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

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~~of the relevant community. The department~~] Within twelve months after the completion of the study, the department shall conduct a pilot program aimed at improving caregiver education and continued safe sleep practices in counties or areas with high infant mortality rates, and also shall pursue available funding options and make efforts to establish a public-private partnership with organizations that promote such causes or manufacture such products in order to seek to obtain donations for these purposes.

[~~The department shall be responsible for monitoring the quality, appropriateness and effectiveness of the program and shall report to the legislature within one year of the effective date of this section on the program's effectiveness.~~]

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section 1 of chapter 401 of the laws of 2017 took effect; provided, however, that the department of health shall commence the study authorized by section 2508 of the public health law as amended by section one of this act on the same date that this act shall have become a law; and provided further that the pilot program authorized under section 2508 of the public health law as amended by section one of this act shall expire 24 months after it has been established.