STATE OF NEW YORK

5972

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 9, 2017

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- 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 establishing a statewide newborn health and safety program

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 2508 to read as follows:

§ 2508. New born health and safety program. 1. For the purposes of this section, the term "baby box" shall mean a cardboard box lined with a firm mattress, such that it can double as a bassinet.

2. a. There shall be established in the department, by the commissioner, a baby box program designed to reduce infant mortality rates across the state. Through the baby box program, the commissioner shall provide baby boxes, for each infant born in the state of New York, regardless of family income. The baby boxes shall be designed to be a safe sleep place for newborn infants. Each mattress shall be covered with a fitted sheet and all baby boxes shall contain newborn infant care essentials aimed at promoting safe sleeping practices and other methods of reducing sudden infant death syndrome, as well as items to encourage safe and healthy habits for families transitioning to parenting. All such infant care essentials shall be chosen at the discretion of the commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to clothing, hats, socks, thermometers and bath towels.

b. The department 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 two years of the effective date of this section on the program's effectiveness, and then provide periodic updates every year thereafter.

§ 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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