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:

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

§ 2508. Newborn health and safety pilot program. There shall be established in the department, by the commissioner, a baby box pilot program designed to reduce infant mortality rates across the state. Through the baby box pilot program, the commissioner shall provide baby boxes in areas of greatest need, such as counties or areas with high infant mortality rates, or counties or areas with poor birth outcomes. The baby boxes shall be designed to be a safe sleep place for newborn infants and shall be lined with a firm mattress with a fitted sheet such that it can double as a bassinet. Baby boxes shall also 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. 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 one year of the effective date of this section on the program's effectiveness.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD09076-03-7