STATE OF NEW YORK

5131

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2019

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

AN ACT to establish a Minority Coordinating Council on Asthmatic Affairs

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Lydia Soto law".

§ 2. Legislative findings and intent. According to the American Lung Association, there are over 1.6 million New Yorkers with asthma, with over 380,000 of them being children. The annual cost of asthma is estimated to be nearly 18 billion dollars. Access to health care for ethnic minorities is often hampered by socio-economic disparities, shortages of primary care physicians in minority communities, language and literacy barriers, and cultural beliefs about the role and usefulness of medicines. There have emerged clear disparities in the burden and treatment of asthma in the communities of ethnic minorities. The burden of asthma falls disproportionately on the African-American and Hispanic populations, and especially on children of these ethnic minorities. Therefore, it is the intent of this legislature to create a coordinating council to address these issues and to improve awareness and management of asthma prevention and treatment for minorities in this state.

§ 3. The commissioner of health shall establish a Minority Coordinating Council on Asthmatic Affairs. The commissioner shall appoint as many members as he or she determines appropriate. Such members shall be representative of those regions of the state with significant minority populations and shall include health care professionals with knowledge and experience in the prevention and treatment of asthma and in the areas of public health care funding. The council shall be tasked with: (a) assessing the asthma risk factors for the minority citizens of this state, its counties and regions; (b) identifying the existing barriers to quality asthma treatment and care among minorities; (c) developing

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

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action steps for addressing care issues; and (d) launching a state-wide asthma awareness campaign to educate citizens about the disease, its symptoms, and the ability to better manage asthma through prevention and treatment. The council shall deliver an annual report addressing various asthma program successes, new trends, data and issues surrounding minority populations suffering from asthma to the governor and the legislature beginning September 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.