

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6986--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 3, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the department of health of the state of New York to conduct a study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on breastfeeding rates and prepare and submit a report to the governor and the legislature

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section  
2 2500-1 to read as follows:

3 § 2500-1. Study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on  
4 breastfeeding rates. 1. The department shall conduct a study on the  
5 effects of racial and ethnic disparities on breastfeeding rates. The  
6 purpose of the study shall be to:

7 (a) identify statewide and regional breastfeeding rates, trends,  
8 patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding rates, and  
9 medical, non-medical, and system-related factors that may have contrib-  
10 uted to breastfeeding rate disparities;

11 (b) review the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in  
12 breastfeeding in a geographic area indicate the need to increase access  
13 to health care services in that area;

14 (c) identify ways to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities  
15 that contribute to disparities in breastfeeding rates; and

16 (d) review the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in  
17 breastfeeding initiation and duration indicate the need to increase  
18 breastfeeding supports among racial and ethnic populations throughout  
19 the state.

20 2. In conducting the study, the department may seek the advice of  
21 persons specializing in the fields of neonatal and post neonatal pathol-

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

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1 ogy, maternal and infant health, minority health advocacy, or other  
2 related fields.

3 3. Within one year after the effective date of this section, the  
4 department shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary pres-  
5 ident of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of  
6 the senate and the minority leader of the assembly a report containing  
7 the study's findings concerning the effects of racial and ethnic dispar-  
8 ities on breastfeeding rates and recommendations for legislative or  
9 other actions that can be undertaken to:

10 (a) increase breastfeeding rates in the state;

11 (b) reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that contribute  
12 to disparity in breastfeeding rates;

13 (c) increase access to health care services in the state; and

14 (d) increase breastfeeding support throughout the state.

15 4. The department may prepare and submit additional reports when the  
16 department deems it appropriate, and each report, with the exception of  
17 the first report prepared under this section, shall additionally identi-  
18 fy the extent to which the department's prior recommendations have been  
19 successfully implemented in practice and the apparent impact that the  
20 implementation of such recommended changes has had on breastfeeding  
21 rates in the preceding years.

22 § 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
23 have become a law. Effective immediately the addition, amendment and/or  
24 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
25 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
26 on or before such date.