

STATE OF NEW YORK

1795

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2019

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- 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 including certain chronic and often misunderstood illnesses, primarily affecting women for which there are no diagnostic tests or cures within the health care and wellness education and outreach program

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 207 of the public health law is amended by adding a new paragraph (p) to read as follows:

(p) Chronic and often misunderstood illnesses which primarily affect women for which there are no diagnostic tests or cures, including but not limited to:

(1) myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), a multi-system disease associated with neurological, immunological and energy metabolism impairment characterized by long-standing and debilitating fatigue with a delayed exacerbation of symptoms and loss of stamina following even minimal mental or physical function; symptoms may also include cognitive dysfunction, sleep abnormalities, autonomic manifestations and pain; and

(2) fibromyalgia (FM), a complex chronic pain disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, cognitive difficulties and sleep problems; symptoms may also include tension headaches, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety and depression.

Given there are no diagnostic tests or biomarkers, and no approved treatments for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome and few for fibromyalgia, diagnosis and management of these diseases can be more difficult and, as a result, education and awareness of health care providers and the public is imperative. Provided that the program for such illnesses shall include an advisory council under this section that

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

LBD07754-01-9

1 shall include representatives of people with encephalomyelitis/chronic
2 fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia, and their families and health care
3 providers who specialize in treating such illnesses and other chronic
4 and often misunderstood illnesses which primarily affect women for which
5 there are no diagnostic tests or cures, among others.

6 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.