

STATE OF NEW YORK

499

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 9, 2019

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, the insurance law, the social
services law and the public housing law, in relation to elevated lead
levels in children

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Dakota's Law".
2 § 2. Subdivision 6 of section 1370 of the public health law, as
3 amended by chapter 485 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 6. "Elevated lead levels" means a blood lead level greater than or
6 equal to [~~ten~~] five micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood or
7 such lower blood lead level as may be established by the department
8 pursuant to rule or regulation.

9 § 3. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subdivision 2 of section 1370-a of the
10 public health law, paragraph (c) as amended by section 4 of part A of
11 chapter 58 of the laws of 2009, and paragraph (d) as added by chapter
12 485 of the laws of 1992, are amended and three new paragraphs (e), (f)
13 and (g) are added to read as follows:

14 (c) establish a statewide registry of lead levels of children provided
15 such information is maintained as confidential except for (i) disclosure
16 for medical treatment purposes; (ii) disclosure of non-identifying
17 epidemiological data; and (iii) disclosure of information from such
18 registry to the statewide immunization information system established by
19 section twenty-one hundred sixty-eight of this chapter; [~~and~~]

20 (d) develop and implement public education and community outreach
21 programs on lead exposure, detection and risk reduction[~~-~~];

22 (e) establish a process that allows physicians to record when a child
23 under such physician's care has completed a lead screening and/or

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

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1 obtained a blood test for lead to the statewide immunization information
2 system established by section twenty-one hundred sixty-eight of this
3 chapter;

4 (f) add a question to the lead exposure risk assessment questionnaire
5 for children which shall include a question asking if the child has
6 obtained a blood test for lead at the ages of twelve months old and
7 twenty-four months old; and

8 (g) establish a hotline, to be operated by the department, to serve as
9 a centralized system for physicians to report elevated lead levels as
10 required pursuant to section thirteen hundred seventy-e of this title.
11 The department shall utilize the information reported to such hotline to
12 notify the appropriate local or state health officer of elevated lead
13 levels as required to be reported pursuant to this title.

14 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 1370-e of the public health law, as
15 added by chapter 485 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

16 1. Every physician or authorized practitioner shall give notice of
17 elevated lead levels [~~as specified by the commissioner pursuant to regu-~~
18 ~~lation,~~] of five micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood to the
19 health officer of the health district wherein the patient resides,
20 except as otherwise provided.

21 § 5. Section 1373 of the public health law is amended by adding a new
22 subdivision 6 to read as follows:

23 6. (a) The commissioner or their representative shall require the
24 jurisdictional local or state health department to investigate cases of
25 elevated lead levels, as defined in subdivision six of section thirteen
26 hundred seventy of this title, that are reported by physicians to a
27 local or state health officer pursuant to section thirteen hundred
28 seventy-e of this title.

29 (b) A jurisdictional local health department may request assistance
30 from the state department of health to investigate cases of elevated
31 lead levels if such jurisdictional local health department does not have
32 the capacity and/or resources to investigate such cases as required
33 pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

34 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "jurisdictional local or
35 state health department" shall mean the local or state health department
36 of the local or state health officer whom a physician has reported
37 elevated lead levels to pursuant to section thirteen hundred seventy-e
38 of this title.

39 § 6. Subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law is amended by
40 adding a new paragraph 35 to read as follows:

41 (35) Every insurer issuing a policy of accident and health insurance
42 for delivery in this state shall provide coverage for screening and
43 blood tests of children for elevated lead levels. For the purposes of
44 this paragraph, "elevated lead levels" shall have the same meaning as
45 set forth in subdivision six of section thirteen hundred seventy of the
46 public health law.

47 § 7. Subsection (k) of section 3221 of the insurance law is amended by
48 adding a new paragraph 22 to read as follows:

49 (22) Every group or blanket policy delivered or issued for delivery in
50 this state which provides hospital, surgical or medical coverage shall
51 provide coverage for screening and blood tests of children for elevated
52 lead levels. For the purposes of this paragraph, "elevated lead levels"
53 shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdivision six of section
54 thirteen hundred seventy of the public health law.

55 § 8. Section 4303 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new
56 subsection (ss) to read as follows:

1 (ss) Every medical expense indemnity corporation, hospital service
2 corporation and health service corporation which provides coverage for
3 medical, surgical or major medical care shall provide coverage for
4 screening and blood tests of children for elevated lead levels. For the
5 purposes of this paragraph, "elevated lead levels" shall have the same
6 meaning as set forth in subdivision six of section thirteen hundred
7 seventy of the public health law.

8 § 9. Subdivision 2 of section 365-a of the social services law is
9 amended by adding a new paragraph (ff) to read as follows:

10 (ff) screening and blood tests of children for elevated lead levels.
11 For the purposes of this paragraph, elevated lead levels means a blood
12 lead level greater than or equal to five micrograms of lead per decili-
13 ter of whole blood.

14 § 10. Subdivision 4 of section 14 of the public housing law is amended
15 by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

16 (e) the commissioner, their counsel or any other officer or employee
17 of the division specially designated by the commissioner shall promul-
18 gate rules, regulations and policies which:

19 (i) set the action level for lead to five micrograms of lead per
20 deciliter of whole blood when identifying elevated blood lead levels of
21 children occupying a dwelling in public housing; and

22 (ii) require projects to follow the federal department of housing and
23 urban development's guidance on lead safe housing rule pertaining to
24 elevated blood levels for the public housing, housing choice voucher,
25 and project-based voucher programs.

26 § 11. This act shall take effect immediately.