# STATE OF NEW YORK

6707

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

September 11, 2019

Introduced by Sen. BENJAMIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

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:**

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

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

**(a) identify statewide and regional breastfeeding rates, trends, patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding rates, and medical, non-medical, and system-related factors that may have contributed to breastfeeding rate disparities;**

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

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

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

**2. In conducting the study, the department may seek the advice of persons specializing in the fields of neonatal and post neonatal pathology, maternal and infant health, minority health advocacy, or other related fields.**

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

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3. Within one year after the effective date of this section, the department shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly a report containing the study's findings concerning the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on breastfeeding rates and recommendations for legislative or other actions that can be undertaken to:

(a) increase breastfeeding rates in the state;

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

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

(d) increase breastfeeding support throughout the state.

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

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