STATE OF NEW YORK

6581

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI, CONRAD, WOERNER, THIELE, GRIFFIN, STERN, BURDICK, SEAWRIGHT, ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT directing the department of health develop a prioritized COVID-19 appointment process for individuals seventy-five years of age and older

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

Section 1. (a) For purposes of this act:

(1) "centralized manner" shall mean a process, established by the New York state Department of Health ("the Department"), by which individuals can register their information with either the state, county or city health department or other state or local government entity;

(2) "prioritized appointment process" shall mean a process by which the Department seeks to increase the percent vaccinated of a cohort of individuals by ensuring, to the greatest extent possible, that a certain number or percentage of vaccine appointments are available on an ongoing basis to such cohort, within the overall vaccine distribution system of the state; and

(3) "vaccine administration entity" shall mean any public or private organization that is approved to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the Department is hereby directed to develop a prioritized appointment process for individuals seventy-five years of age and older who qualified for early phases of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution but were unable to make an appointment. The Department shall provide eligible individuals with the opportunity to schedule an appointment in a centralized manner, either online or by phone. After registration, these individuals shall be assigned an appointment opportunity, to the greatest extent practicable, at a vaccine administration entity. The Department may direct, or may cause to be directed by a local government, any vaccine administration

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

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entities to allocate a number or percentage of their vaccine allotment, at appropriate dates and times, to provide appointment slots for these individuals. The Department shall report to the legislature, no later than thirty days after the effective date of this act, and every thirty days thereafter, on the number of vaccines administered to individuals seventy-five years of age and older and the approximate number of eligible individuals remaining to be vaccinated. The Commissioner of Health may, thirty days after the effective date of this act, identify an additional cohort, or cohorts, of individuals who are eligible for the vaccine but in the interest of public health, have not acquired a vaccination percentage appropriate given the supply available and the time elapsed since first eligible. The Commissioner of Health may issue an order, consistent with the provisions of this act, to develop a prioritized appointment process for this cohort, or cohorts, of individuals. In evaluating the inclusion of a cohort, or cohorts, in an order, the Commissioner of Health, to the greatest extent practicable, shall follow the New York State vaccine distribution phases previously established.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.