STATE OF NEW YORK

4553

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 5, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to require the New York State Office of Mental Health to study the effects that awareness of or exposure to police shootings or killings of unarmed African Americans has on the mental health of African Americans in New York state and to deliver a finding of the results of such study to the governor and the legislative leaders

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

Section 1. The New York State Office of Mental Health shall conduct a study of the effects that awareness of or exposure to police shootings or killings of unarmed African Americans has on the mental health of African Americans in New York state. The study shall:

(a) identify the mental health risks and harm that awareness of or exposure to police shootings or killings of unarmed African Americans has on the self-reported mental health of adults in the state;

(b) compare the differences between the self-reported mental health of African Americans aware of or exposed to such shootings or killings with the self-reported mental health of other ethnic or racial groups aware of or exposed to such shootings or killings, including but not limited to Hispanic or Latino, Black, White, Asian or Pacific Islander groups;

(c) in assessing such harm or risks, utilize data from the Centers of Disease Control, the Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (PBRFSS), and the Mapping Police Violence (MPV); database

(d) contain recommendations as to how to increase accessibility and affordability of mental health professionals for racial and ethnic minorities, including African Americans; and

(e) contain recommendations as to how to decrease stigma, if any, of mental health and mental health treatment in racial and ethnic minority, including African American, communities.

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

LBD03560-01-1

2. No later than January 1, 2023 the New York State Office of Mental Health 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 and recommendation for legislative or other actions that can be undertaken to address the mental health risks and harm identified by the study.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.