STATE OF NEW YORK

879

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

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

AN ACT to require the department of health of the state of New York to conduct a study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and prepare and submit a report to the governor and the legislature; and to repeal section 2500-l of the public health law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Section 2500-l of the public health law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the public health law relating 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 infant mortality and prepare and submit a report to the governor and the legislature, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6662 and A.6987-A, is REPEALED.

§ 2. Study of the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality. 1. The department of health shall conduct a study on the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality. The purpose of the study shall be to:

(a) identify statewide and regional infant death rates, trends, patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in adverse birth outcomes; and

(b) provided that the department shall use its best efforts, identify medical, non-medical, and system-related factors that may have contributed to infant deaths and treatment disparities to the extent practicable; and

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

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

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(d) identify ways to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to infant mortality.

2. In conducting the study, the department of health 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.

3. Within eighteen months after the effective date of this section, the department of 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 concerning the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and recommendations for legislative or other actions that can be undertaken to:

(a) reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes in the state;

(b) reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to infant mortality; and

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

4. The department of health 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 infant mortality in the preceding years.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the public health law relating 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 infant mortality and prepare and submit a report to the governor and the legislature, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6662 and A.6987-A, takes effect.