

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4553

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 5, 2021

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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:

1 Section 1. The New York State Office of Mental Health shall conduct a  
2 study of the effects that awareness of or exposure to police shootings  
3 or killings of unarmed African Americans has on the mental health of  
4 African Americans in New York state. The study shall:  
5 (a) identify the mental health risks and harm that awareness of or  
6 exposure to police shootings or killings of unarmed African Americans  
7 has on the self-reported mental health of adults in the state;  
8 (b) compare the differences between the self-reported mental health of  
9 African Americans aware of or exposed to such shootings or killings with  
10 the self-reported mental health of other ethnic or racial groups aware  
11 of or exposed to such shootings or killings, including but not limited  
12 to Hispanic or Latino, Black, White, Asian or Pacific Islander groups;  
13 (c) in assessing such harm or risks, utilize data from the Centers of  
14 Disease Control, the Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance  
15 System (PBRFSS), and the Mapping Police Violence (MPV); database  
16 (d) contain recommendations as to how to increase accessibility and  
17 affordability of mental health professionals for racial and ethnic  
18 minorities, including African Americans; and  
19 (e) contain recommendations as to how to decrease stigma, if any, of  
20 mental health and mental health treatment in racial and ethnic minority,  
21 including African American, communities.

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

LBD03560-01-1

1     2. No later than January 1, 2023 the New York State Office of Mental  
2 Health shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president  
3 of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the  
4 senate and the minority leader of the assembly, a report containing the  
5 study's findings and recommendation for legislative or other actions  
6 that can be undertaken to address the mental health risks and harm iden-  
7 tified by the study.

8     § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.