STATE OF NEW YORK

8207--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CLARK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to require the department of health to convene a maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Maternal health care and birthing standards workgroup. a. The commissioner of health shall convene a workgroup of stakeholders, including but not limited to hospitals, obstetricians, midwives, doulas, maternal health care provider organizations; mental health care provider organizations; and any additional stakeholders that the commissioner deems necessary to study, evaluate and make recommendations related to the development of maternal health care and birthing standards to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care. These recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, standards that ensure every patient receives:

(i) fair, courteous and respectful culturally competent care free of discrimination;

(ii) accurate and judgment-free advice and recommendations that allow for informed decision making and consent regarding care and treatment, including risks, benefits, outcomes and alternative procedures;

(iii) clear, concise and easily understood information about their care and treatment outcomes, medical team and birthing options, the policies and procedures of the hospital or birthing center, and resources available to them;

(iv) an opportunity to discuss their birthing preferences with their care team and have such preferences documented; and

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

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(v) adequate support during their pregnancy, labor and childbirth, including access to doula and mental health services.

b. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the workgroup shall submit their recommendations in the form of a written report to the commissioner, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly and the minority leader of the senate.

c. Upon receipt of the workgroup's report, the commissioner shall publish such recommendations on the department of health's website and update all relevant materials provided to the public through the department's health care and wellness education and outreach program to reflect these standards.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire 2 years after such effective date when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.