STATE OF NEW YORK

7897

IN SENATE

January 3, 2024

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

AN ACT to require the office of minority health and health disparities prevention to conduct a study on the health impacts of COVID-19 on transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic minorities in New York state

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

Section 1. 1. The office of minority health and health disparities prevention shall conduct a study on the differential health impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic minorities in New York state. The purpose of the study shall be to:

(a) identify COVID-19 statewide and regional rates of infection, hospitalization, recovery and mortality rates for transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic minorities and identify disparities in such rates, and the potential medical, environmental, and system-related factors that may have contributed to such disparities;

(b) review the extent to which disparities in COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, recovery and mortality rates for transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic minorities in any geographic area indicate the need to increase access to health care services and availability of disparity mitigation and prevention strategies in that area;

(c) identify ways to reduce or eliminate transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic health care discrimination and disparities that contributed to disparities in COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, recovery and mortality rates; and

(d) identify the extent to which COVID-19 regulations and/or restrictions led to any disparities in health care treatment for transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic minorities.

2. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the office of minority health and disparities prevention 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

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

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the assembly a report containing the study's findings concerning the rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, recovery and mortality for transgender and non-binary racial and ethnic disparities in such rates and recommendations for legislative or other actions that can be undertaken to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities and increase access to health care services and disparity mitigation and prevention strategies in the state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.