

STATE OF NEW YORK

2581

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the creation of a department of health education and outreach program on reproductive health services

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 2599-bb-2 to read as follows:

3 § 2599-bb-2. Reproductive health services education and outreach
4 program. 1. There is hereby created within the department a reproduc-
5 tive health services education and outreach program. The department
6 shall conduct education and outreach for consumers, patients, educators,
7 and health care providers related to reproductive health services avail-
8 able in New York state including, but not limited to: access to services
9 such as contraceptives and pregnancy testing, testing and treatment for
10 sexually transmitted infections, and any other reproductive health
11 condition or information the commissioner shall deem appropriate. Such
12 information shall also include:

13 (a) available counseling for reproductive health services;

14 (b) access to reproductive health services and counseling via tele-
15 health;

16 (c) resources for locating clinics that provide reproductive health
17 services and counseling for these services;

18 (d) financial assistance available for reproductive health services
19 and counseling for these services; and

20 (e) programs for reproductive health services offered through other
21 state agencies as defined by section four hundred one of the executive
22 law.

23 2. The program shall include, but not be limited to, any of the
24 following elements:

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

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1 (a) educational and informational materials in print, audio, visual,
2 or other media;

3 (b) educational and informational materials provided electronically
4 via the department's website;

5 (c) public service announcements and advertisements; and

6 (d) establishment of toll-free telephone hotlines, a website, and
7 other electronic services to provide information.

8 3. The department may produce, make available to others for reprod-
9 uction, or contract with others to develop such materials under this
10 section as the commissioner deems appropriate. Such materials shall be
11 made available to the public and to providers and educators.

12 4. In exercising any of the commissioner's powers under this section,
13 the commissioner may consult with appropriate health care professionals,
14 providers, consumers, educators and patients or organizations represent-
15 ing them.

16 5. The commissioner shall ensure that all information and materials
17 produced pursuant to this section are maintained and updated to reflect
18 best practice recommendations.

19 6. The commissioner may make rules and regulations necessary and
20 appropriate for implementation of this section.

21 7. The department shall take all necessary steps to ensure the confi-
22 dentiality of providers of these services and of the individuals receiv-
23 ing services unless necessary for the purpose of referring individuals
24 for reproductive health services. A provider may request that their
25 information be omitted from dissemination under this program. The
26 commissioner may maintain aggregate, de-identified information, provided
27 that no information which alone or in combination would permit a
28 patient, provider, or an individual who sought, received, provided, or
29 supported health care services under the program to be identified may be
30 requested or shared.

31 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
32 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or
33 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of
34 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed
35 on or before such effective date.