STATE OF NEW YORK

3285

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. GONZALEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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:

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

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

(a) available counseling for reproductive health services;

(b) access to reproductive health services and counseling via telehealth;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) public service announcements and advertisements; and

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

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

4. In exercising any of the commissioner's powers under this section, the commissioner may consult with appropriate health care professionals, providers, consumers, educators and patients or organizations representing them.

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

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

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

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