

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 3212

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3212 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes a Women's Menstrual Health Screening Program and requirements to screen patients, who have displayed symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).

Endometriosis may affect more than 11 percent of American women between the ages of 15 and 44, which is approximately 6.5 million women in the United States alone. Symptoms include severe pelvic and menstrual pain, infertility, painful bowel movements, pain with intercourse, excessive bleeding, and nausea.

PCOS is one of the most common causes of female infertility, affecting six to 12 percent of women of reproductive age in the United States (as many as five million women). This life-long health condition continues far beyond the child-bearing years and involves other serious health complications, including insulin resistance, gestational diabetes, and heart disease.

Given the increased health risks associated with endometriosis and PCOS and the number of women impacted by these disorders, the bill establishes a Women's Menstrual Health Screening Program within the Department of Health (department), to screen patients, who have displayed symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis and PCOS. The department is to establish a fee, in an amount determined by the Commissioner of Health (commissioner), to cover the costs of the screening, follow-up, and treatment of patients, and to provide education or training on the screening program to physicians, hospital staff, nurses, and the public concerning women's menstrual health screening. The fee is also to be used to support other aspects of the screening program including, but not limited to, ongoing infrastructure upgrades, and providing electronic access to physicians to obtain screening results.

The bill requires the commissioner to collect screening information on patients in a standardized manner and develop a system for quality assurance, and gives the commissioner the authority to use the information collected to provide follow-up and appropriate referrals to patients with positive diagnoses.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments make various technical corrections involving grammar, syntax, usage, and punctuation. The amendments update a reference to the screening program, reorganize certain provisions of the bill, and make a technical change to the synopsis.