

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4940

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4940.

This bill requires the Department of Health to establish a public awareness campaign regarding pelvic floor examinations.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) is to establish a public awareness campaign regarding pelvic floor examinations. The purpose of the public awareness campaign is to: (1) provide health professionals with pelvic floor examination education and training; (2) educate health professionals on the benefits of pelvic health physical therapy; (3) educate women on the importance of pelvic floor examinations during the postpartum period; (4) inform women about the benefits of pelvic floor examinations and pelvic health physical therapy; and (5) provide women with information on obtaining pelvic floor examinations and pelvic health physical therapy, including information on obtaining referrals. The commissioner is to make the public awareness campaign available in as many languages as the commissioner determines necessary.

The bill defines “pelvic floor examination” to mean an examination to assess a woman for pelvic health related conditions consisting of an external evaluation that includes analysis of posture, joint integrity, muscle performance, quality of movement, and palpation and observation of the pelvic floor; and if deemed necessary by the health care professional, an internal vaginal examination, a rectal examination, or both, to examine the muscles of the pelvic floor, the condition of the surrounding fascia, and the position of the organs. “Pelvic health physical therapy” means a personalized physical therapy plan implemented by a pelvic health physical therapist, following a pelvic floor examination to improve mobility, recover from injury, prevent future injury, and manage pain and chronic conditions. “Pelvic health related conditions” includes, but is not limited to the following conditions: urinary dysfunction, bowel dysfunction, musculoskeletal dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, cancer-related rehabilitation, and prepartum conditions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services concludes that one-time Department of Health costs would increase by a minimum of \$100,000 for the department to establish a dual-track public awareness campaign

for health professionals and consumers concerning the benefits of pelvic floor examinations and pelvic health physical therapy. This amount falls within the range of costs for other recent State public health outreach efforts.