

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3275

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 6, 2023

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3275 (1R).

This bill requires the establishment of a State website providing comprehensive information on reproductive rights under federal and State law, as well as information concerning health benefits coverage for reproductive health care services. As used in the bill, "reproductive health care services" means all medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system including, but not limited to, services relating to pregnancy, contraception, or termination of a pregnancy.

Specifically, the bill requires that, no later than 180 days after the effective date of the bill, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the State Treasurer jointly establish the website, which is to have a unique uniform resource locator (URL) and be separate from the Internet websites of the Department of Health, the Department of Banking and Insurance, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of the Treasury Internet websites. The information provided on the website is to include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

- 1) the right to access and receive emergency reproductive health care services;
- 2) the right to access and use contraception, including, but not limited to, condoms, diaphragms, spermicides, contraceptive vaginal rings, transdermal contraceptive patches, contraceptive hormonal injections, hormonal contraceptive pills, uterine implants, intrauterine devices, and surgical and non-surgical sterilization;
- 3) the right to self-determination concerning the use of contraception, and the right to refuse sterilization;
- 4) the right to access and use prescription and non-prescription medications for reproductive health care;
- 5) the right to carry a pregnancy to term and the right to terminate a pregnancy, as well as the right to access services related to childbirth and abortion care;
- 6) the right to access preventative reproductive health care services;

7) the right to receive reproductive health care services regardless of insurance status, along with links to appropriate Internet websites and other resources that can provide assistance in enrolling individuals without insurance or who are underinsured in a health benefits plan or to apply for medical assistance under the Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare programs;

8) a resource page, or a link to a resource website, where patients can locate current, verified reproductive health care providers, including abortion care providers; and

9) information on where and how to file a complaint in the event that an individual's reproductive rights are violated.

The information available on or through the Internet website is to be made available in the 10 languages most commonly spoken in New Jersey. At the discretion of the commissioner and the State Treasurer, the information may be made in such additional languages as they deem appropriate.

In the event the Internet website is not established within 180 days, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the State Treasurer will be required to appear before the committee of first reference in which the bill was considered in each House, or before another standing reference committee as may be determined by the Speaker of the General Assembly or the President of the Senate, as appropriate, to explain why the bill has not been implemented in accordance with its provisions, and the steps the commissioners and the State Treasurer are taking to ensure implementation. Thereafter, for such time as the Internet website remains unestablished, the Speaker of the General Assembly and the Senate President will have the authority to require the commissioners and the State Treasurer to appear before any appropriate standing reference committee to explain why the bill has not been implemented and the steps that are being taken to ensure implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the provisions of this bill will result in a one-time outlay of State resources of up to \$75,000 in order to design and establish a new website, as described under the bill. To the extent that the website is created by a third party contractor, the cost of the bill will be closer to \$75,000; to the extent that the website is created by existing State employees, the cost will be lower. This estimate assumes that existing staff will perform the ongoing maintenance of the website; and therefore any cost of the bill beyond the creation of the website will be absorbed into the State's existing budget.