

ASSEMBLY, No. 707

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Speight, Vainieri Huttie, Murphy, McKnight,

Assemblyman Conaway and Assemblywoman Jasey

SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health to study racial disparities on sexual and reproductive health of African-American women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and
2 Multicultural Health and supplementing P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-
3 160 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural
9 Health shall study the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on the
10 sexual and reproductive health of African-American women.

11 The purpose of the study shall be to:

12 (1) identify Statewide and regional trends, patterns, and racial
13 and ethnic disparities in adverse health outcomes, and medical, non-
14 medical, and system-related factors that may affect the sexual and
15 reproductive health of African-American women;

16 (2) review the extent to which the effects of racial and ethnic
17 disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of African-
18 American women in a geographic area indicate the need to increase
19 access to health care services among racial and ethnic populations
20 in that area; and

21 (3) identify ways to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic
22 disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive health of African-
23 American women.

24 b. In conducting the study, the office may seek the advice of
25 persons specializing in the fields of women's health, minority
26 health advocacy, or other related fields.

27 c. Within one year after the date of enactment of this act, the
28 office shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to
29 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a
30 report containing the study's findings concerning the effects of
31 racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of
32 African-American women and recommendations for legislative or
33 other actions that can be undertaken to:

34 (1) improve the sexual and reproductive health of African-
35 American women in this State;

36 (2) reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that affect
37 the sexual and reproductive health of African-American women;
38 and

39 (3) increase access to high quality health care services among
40 African-American women in the following priority areas:
41 childbirth; breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer screening;
42 HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; and other sexually transmitted diseases.

43 d. The office may prepare and submit additional reports when
44 the office deems it appropriate, and each report, with the exception
45 of the first report prepared under this section, shall additionally
46 identify the extent to which the office's prior recommendations
47 have been successfully implemented in practice and the apparent

1 impact that the implementation of such recommended changes has
2 had on the sexual and reproductive health of African-American
3 women in the preceding years.

4
5 2. The office shall adopt regulations pursuant to the
6 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
7 seq.) necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

8
9 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill requires the New Jersey Office of Minority and
15 Multicultural Health established pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401
16 (C.26:2-160 et seq.) to study of the effects of racial and ethnic
17 disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of African-
18 American women.

19 The purpose of the study would be to: identify Statewide and
20 regional trends, patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in adverse
21 health outcomes, and medical, non-medical, and system-related
22 factors that may affect the sexual and reproductive health of
23 African-American women; review the extent to which the effects of
24 racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and reproductive health of
25 African-American women in a geographic area indicate the need to
26 increase access to health care services among racial and ethnic
27 populations in that area; and identify ways to reduce or eliminate
28 racial and ethnic disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive
29 health of African-American women.

30 When conducting the study, the office would be allowed to seek
31 the advice of persons specializing in the fields of women's health,
32 minority health advocacy, or other related fields.

33 The bill stipulates that within one year of the enactment of the
34 bill, the office would prepare and submit to the Governor and the
35 Legislature a report containing the study's findings concerning the
36 effects of racial and ethnic disparities on the sexual and
37 reproductive health of African-American women and
38 recommendations for legislative or other actions that could be taken
39 to: improve the sexual and reproductive health of African-American
40 women in this State; reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic
41 disparities that affect the sexual and reproductive health of African-
42 American women; and increase access to high quality health care
43 services among African-American women in the following priority
44 areas: childbirth; breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer screening;
45 HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; and other sexually transmitted diseases.

46 Each report prepared by the office pursuant to the bill, with the
47 exception of the first report, would identify the extent to which the

1 office's prior recommendations have been successfully
2 implemented and the impact the implementation of the
3 recommended changes has had on African-American women's
4 sexual and reproductive health in the preceding years.