

ASSEMBLY, No. 2037

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

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SYNOPSIS

Requires various State departments to provide linkages to information on “baby boxes” and safe sleep education on their websites.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning safe sleep education and supplementing Title 9
2 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall prepare
8 and make available on the department's Internet website, in an
9 easily printable format, information on the program providing
10 "baby boxes" and safe sleep education to expecting and new
11 parents. The department shall update the information whenever
12 new information about the program becomes available.

13 b. The department shall post a website link to the program
14 providing the "baby boxes" and safe sleep education on its Internet
15 website, and shall ensure that the link is easily accessible to the
16 public, is prominently displayed on the website, and is updated as
17 necessary.

18 c. The department shall ensure, in consultation with the
19 Departments of Health, Human Services, and Education, and, as
20 deemed appropriate by the Department of Children and Families, in
21 consultation with any other State department that provides services
22 to parents or children, that:

23 (1) the information posted on its website pursuant to subsection
24 a. of this section is also made available on the websites of the
25 Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the
26 Department of Education, and any other appropriate State
27 department that provides services to parents or children, and is
28 updated as necessary; and

29 (2) a website link to the program providing the "baby boxes"
30 and safe sleep education is posted to the websites of the Department
31 of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of
32 Education, and any other appropriate State department that provides
33 services to parents or children, and is updated as necessary.

34 d. As used in this section, "baby box" means a box made of
35 durable cardboard, filled with essential items for newborns and
36 expecting and new parents, such as diapers, baby wipes, and
37 information on safe sleep techniques, that can serve as a safe sleep
38 environment for the first few months of an infant's life, and meets
39 all applicable tenets of the bassinet standard established by the
40 United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

41

42 2. The Department of Children and Families, pursuant to the
43 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
44 seq.) shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
45 this act.

46

47 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
48 following enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to prepare and make available on its Internet website, in an easily printable format, information on the program providing “baby boxes” and safe sleep education to expecting and new parents. DCF would update the information whenever new information on the program becomes available. DCF would also be required to prominently display on its website, and update as necessary, an easily accessible hyperlink to the program providing the “baby boxes” and safe sleep education. Furthermore, DCF would be required to ensure, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Education (DOE), and, as deemed by the DCF to be appropriate, any other State department that provides services to parents or children, that the information posted on the DCF website is also made available, and that a website link to the program providing the “baby boxes” and safe sleep education is posted, on the websites of the DOH, the DHS, the DOE, and any other appropriate State department providing services to parents or children, and is updated as necessary.

As used in the bill, “baby box” means a box made of durable cardboard, filled with essential items for newborns and expecting and new parents, such as diapers, baby wipes, and information on safe sleep techniques, that can serve as a safe sleep environment for the first few months of an infant’s life, and meets all applicable tenets of the bassinet standard established by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

New Jersey’s program, a partnership between the State’s Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board and The Baby Box Company, provides all expecting and new parents with a free “baby box” after the parents complete an online parenting education course. The program is anticipated to distribute approximately 105,000 “baby boxes” throughout the State in 2017.