

SENATE, No. 880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to conduct survey on status of prenatal care clinics in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning maternity and prenatal care services and
2 supplementing Title 26 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 Health shall conduct a survey and
8 analysis of prenatal care clinics for the purpose of evaluating the
9 effectiveness of maternity and prenatal care services throughout the
10 State. The survey shall include data collected from all prenatal care
11 clinics in the State, including prenatal care clinics that have closed
12 or substantially ceased operations of any of its beds, facilities, or
13 services, within a two-year period prior to the effective date of this
14 act.

15 b. The purpose of the survey shall be to:

16 (1) inform policy on the certificate of need requirements as
17 provided by P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) concerning the
18 closure or discontinuance of all, or a component of, a prenatal care
19 clinic's services;

20 (2) assess the availability of prenatal care clinics and their
21 ability to provide maternity and prenatal care services;

22 (3) identify where low and moderate income pregnant women
23 receive maternity and prenatal care services; and

24 (4) collect cultural, demographic, and socioeconomic
25 background data about the pregnant women served by prenatal care
26 clinics.

27 c. Survey data collected pursuant to this section shall be
28 analyzed to:

29 (1) identify local and Statewide trends and developments in the
30 provision of maternity and prenatal care services and disparities in
31 the care received by pregnant women based on economic factors
32 and the accessibility of prenatal care clinics; and

33 (2) develop programs, resources, and strategies to improve
34 access to, and the quality of, maternity and prenatal care services
35 throughout the State.

36 The commissioner may contract with a third party entity to
37 administer the survey, review survey data, and produce the report
38 required pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

39 d. The commissioner shall make survey data collected pursuant
40 to this section available through the Department of Health's Internet
41 website in a user-friendly format, and shall, no later than 18 months
42 after the effective date of this act, submit a report to the Legislature,
43 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning
44 the results of the survey and the commissioner's recommendations
45 for legislation or other appropriate action; provided that nothing in
46 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
47 personal identifying information or confidential patient information.

1 e. As used in this section, "prenatal care clinic" means an
2 inpatient or ambulatory health care facility licensed by the
3 Department of Health that provides maternity and prenatal care
4 services.

5
6 2. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the
7 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
8 seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
9 provisions of this act.

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11 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to conduct a
17 survey and analysis of prenatal care clinics for the purpose of
18 evaluating the effectiveness of maternity and prenatal care services
19 throughout the State. The survey would include data collected from
20 all prenatal care clinics in the State, including prenatal care clinics
21 that have closed or substantially ceased operation of any of its beds,
22 facilities, or services, within a two-year period prior to the effective
23 date of the bill. As used in the bill, "prenatal care clinic" means an
24 inpatient or ambulatory health care facility licensed by the
25 Department of Health that provides maternity and prenatal care
26 services.

27 The purpose of the survey would be to: inform policy on the
28 certificate of need requirements as provided by P.L.1971, c.136
29 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) concerning the closure or discontinuance of all,
30 or a component of, a prenatal care clinic's services; assess the
31 availability of prenatal care clinics and their ability to provide
32 maternity and prenatal care services; identify where low and
33 moderate income pregnant women receive maternity and prenatal
34 care services; and collect cultural, demographic, and socioeconomic
35 background data about the pregnant women served by prenatal care
36 clinics.

37 The collected survey data would be analyzed to: identify local
38 and Statewide trends and developments in the provision of
39 maternity and prenatal care services and disparities in the care
40 received by pregnant women based on economic factors and the
41 accessibility of prenatal care clinics; and develop programs,
42 resources, and strategies to improve access to, and the quality of,
43 maternity and prenatal care services throughout the State.

44 Survey data would be made available through the Department of
45 Health's website, and the commissioner would submit a report to
46 the Legislature concerning the results of the survey and any
47 recommendations for legislation or other action. The bill specifies
48 that published and reported data would not include any personal

1 identifying information or confidential patient information. The bill
2 authorizes the commissioner to contract with a third party entity to
3 administer the survey, review survey data, and produce the required
4 report.