

SENATE, No. 1812

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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:*

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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 "baby boxes" and
30 safe sleep education is posted to the websites of the Department of
31 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-
44 1 et seq.) shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the
45 purposes of this act.

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

STATEMENT

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3 This bill mandates that the Department of Children and Families
4 (DCF) prepare and make available on its Internet website, in an
5 easily printable format, information on the program providing
6 “baby boxes” and safe sleep education to expecting and new
7 parents. DCF would update the information whenever new
8 information on the program becomes available.

9 DCF would also be required to post a website link to the program
10 providing the “baby boxes” and safe sleep education on its website,
11 and ensure that the link is easily accessible to the public,
12 prominently displayed on the website, and updated as necessary.

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

20 The bill stipulates that DCF would ensure, in consultation with
21 all other State departments, that the information posted on its
22 website is made available, and the website link to the program
23 providing the “baby boxes” and safe sleep education is posted on
24 the website of every State department, and is updated as necessary.

25 “Baby boxes” are made of durable cardboard, filled with
26 essential items for newborns, such as diapers and baby wipes, and
27 are large enough to serve as a crib for the first few months of an
28 infant’s life.

29 New Jersey’s program, a partnership between the State’s Child
30 Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board and The Baby Box
31 Company, provides all expecting and new parents with a free “baby
32 box” after the parents complete an online parenting education
33 course. The program is anticipated to distribute approximately
34 105,000 “baby boxes” throughout the State in 2017.