

SENATE, No. 1818

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

“Listening to Mothers Survey Act”; requires DOH to establish survey to evaluate and improve maternity care access and services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning maternity care and supplementing Title 26 of
2 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 Commissioner of Health shall develop a maternity
8 care experience survey to evaluate women's experiences with
9 maternity care services provided throughout the pre-conception,
10 pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum periods. The survey shall
11 include, at a minimum, questions concerning the woman's
12 experiences with maternity care service providers and her
13 perceptions of how she was received by practitioners, how well her
14 questions and concerns were addressed, the responsiveness and
15 availability of service providers, and whether she was offered
16 information and services with regard to key health metrics related to
17 maternity care. In addition, the survey shall include the option for
18 respondents to report cultural, demographic, and socioeconomic
19 background data.

20 b. The survey developed by the commissioner pursuant to this
21 section shall be distributed to women receiving maternity care
22 services at a hospital, ambulatory care facility, or birthing center
23 licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), and
24 women shall be offered the opportunity to voluntarily complete the
25 survey following the termination of a pregnancy, regardless of
26 whether the pregnancy ends in live birth, or at such time as a
27 woman concludes a course of treatment related to maternity or
28 reproductive care, such as assisted reproduction services that do not
29 result in pregnancy or the administration of long-term or permanent
30 contraception, including sterilization. The survey shall be
31 distributed or otherwise made available no earlier than 14 days
32 following the termination of the pregnancy or the end of a course of
33 treatment related to maternity or reproductive care, but no later than
34 90 days following termination of the pregnancy or the end of the
35 course of treatment.

36 c. Survey data collected pursuant to this section shall be
37 reviewed to identify local and Statewide trends in the provision of
38 maternity care and disparities in care received by discrete racial,
39 cultural, and socioeconomic groups, and to develop programs,
40 resources, and strategies to improve access to, and the quality of,
41 maternity care services throughout the State. The commissioner
42 may contract with a third party entity to administer the survey,
43 review survey data, and produce the report required pursuant to
44 subsection d. of this section.

45 d. The commissioner shall make survey data collected pursuant
46 to this section available through the Department of Health's Internet
47 website in a user-friendly format, and shall, no later than 18 months

1 after the effective date of this act, submit a report to the Legislature,
2 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning
3 the results of the survey and the commissioner's recommendations
4 for legislation or other appropriate action; provided that nothing in
5 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
6 personal identifying information or confidential patient information.
7

8 2. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the
9 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
10 1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
11 provisions of this act.
12

13 3. This act shall take effect 180 days after the date of
14 enactment.
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17 STATEMENT

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19 The "Listening to Mothers Survey Act," requires the
20 Commissioner of Health to develop a maternity care experience survey
21 to evaluate women's experiences with maternity care services
22 provided throughout the pre-conception, pregnancy, childbirth, and
23 postpartum periods. The survey is to include, at a minimum, questions
24 concerning the woman's experiences with maternity care service
25 providers and her perceptions of how she was received by
26 practitioners, how well her questions and concerns were addressed, the
27 responsiveness and availability of service providers, and whether she
28 was offered information and services with regard to key health metrics
29 related to maternity care. The survey is also required to include the
30 option for respondents to report cultural, demographic, and
31 socioeconomic background data, along with any other information
32 requested by the commissioner.

33 The survey is to be made available to women receiving maternity
34 care services at a hospital, ambulatory care facility, or birthing center,
35 and women are to be offered the opportunity to voluntarily complete
36 the survey following the termination of a pregnancy, regardless of
37 whether the pregnancy ends in live birth, or at such time as a woman
38 concludes a course of treatment related to maternity or reproductive
39 care, such as assisted reproduction services that do not result in
40 pregnancy or the administration of long-term or permanent
41 contraception, including sterilization. The survey is to be distributed
42 or otherwise made available no earlier than 14 days following the
43 termination of the pregnancy or the end of a course of treatment
44 related to maternity or reproductive care, but no later than 90 days
45 following termination of the pregnancy or the end of the course of
46 treatment.

1 The collected survey data is to be reviewed to identify local and
2 Statewide trends in the provision of maternity care and disparities in
3 the care received by discrete racial, cultural, and socioeconomic
4 groups, and to develop programs, resources, and strategies to improve
5 access to, and the quality of, maternity care services throughout the
6 State.