

SENATE, No. 1910

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOH to develop standardized perinatal health curriculum for community health workers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning perinatal health training of community health
2 workers and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. The Department of Health shall develop a standardized
8 perinatal health curriculum for training community health workers
9 in the provision of education and support services to women of
10 childbearing age. The curriculum shall include basic educational
11 information and materials concerning factors and behaviors that
12 affect maternal and infant health and childbirth, including, but not
13 limited to: alcohol and substance use during pregnancy; maternal
14 medical conditions that affect pregnancy; premature births and low
15 birthweight babies; cesarean sections and labor induction; labor and
16 delivery; infant mortality; breastfeeding; shaken baby syndrome;
17 perinatal mood disorders ; and the signs, symptoms, and risk factors
18 most commonly associated with maternal and infant mortality and
19 mobility. The curriculum shall further include information on:
20 shared decision making; informed consent; and resources available
21 in the State for women, including, but not limited to, the resources
22 and referrals available through the county central intake agencies.

23 The department may, in developing the curriculum, utilize
24 information or resources developed by another state, a professional
25 association with expertise in maternal and infant health, or an
26 agency of the federal government.

27 The department shall promote and share the curriculum as best
28 practices for community doulas , nurse home visitors, and childbirth
29 educators in the State, in order to increase access by women to
30 current information concerning perinatal health.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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37 This bill directs the Department of Health to develop a
38 standardized curriculum concerning perinatal health for the training of
39 community health workers who provide education and support
40 services to women of childbearing age. The curriculum is to include
41 basic educational information and materials concerning factors and
42 behaviors that affect maternal and infant health and childbirth,
43 including, but not limited to: alcohol and substance use during
44 pregnancy; maternal medical conditions that affect pregnancy;
45 premature births and low birthweight babies; cesarean sections and
46 labor induction; labor and delivery; infant mortality; breastfeeding;
47 shaken baby syndrome; perinatal mood disorders; and the signs,
48 symptoms, and risk factors most commonly associated with maternal

1 and infant mortality and morbidity. The curriculum is to further
2 include information on: shared decision making; informed consent;
3 and resources available in the State for women, including, but not
4 limited to, resources and referrals available through the county central
5 intake agencies.

6 The bill provides that the department may, in developing the
7 curriculum, utilize information or resources developed by another
8 state, a professional association with expertise in maternal and infant
9 health, or an agency of the federal government.

10 As amended, the bill provides that the department is to promote
11 and share the curriculum as best practices for community doulas, nurse
12 home visitors, and childbirth educators in the State.