

SENATE, No. 2887

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to provide information regarding spina bifida to certain parents and families of newborns; “Levi’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning spina bifida and designated as Levi's Law, and
2 amending P.L.2015, c.173.

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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. Section 1 of P.L.2015, c.173 (C.26:2-194) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Health shall make available on the
10 department's Internet website, to any person who renders prenatal
11 care, postnatal care, or genetic counseling of parents who receive a
12 prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome and spina bifida,
13 the following: (1) up-to-date, evidence-based, written information
14 about Down syndrome and spina bifida that has been reviewed by
15 medical experts and national Down syndrome or spina bifida
16 organizations, as applicable, including, but not limited to, the
17 Centers for Disease Control, the Spina Bifida Resource Network,
18 and the March of Dimes, which information shall include physical,
19 developmental, educational, and psychosocial outcomes; (2) life
20 expectancy, clinical course, and intellectual and functional
21 development and treatment options; and (3) contact information
22 regarding telephone and support services, including information
23 hotlines specific to Down syndrome or spina bifida, resource
24 centers, and other education and support programs. The department
25 may also make such information available to any other person who
26 has received a positive test result from a test for Down syndrome or
27 spina bifida blood test. This information may be revised by the
28 department as new information about Down syndrome and spina
29 bifida becomes available.

30 b. Information provided under this section shall be in English
31 and Spanish, and in a manner that is easily understandable for
32 women receiving a positive prenatal diagnosis or for the family of a
33 child receiving a postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or spina
34 bifida.

35 (cf: P.L.2015, c.173, s.1)

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37 2. Section 2 of P.L.2015, c.173 (C.26:2-195) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 2. Any physician, health care provider, nurse midwife, or
40 genetic counselor who renders prenatal care, postnatal care, or
41 genetic counseling shall, upon receipt of a positive test result from a
42 test for Down syndrome or a spina bifida blood test, provide the
43 expectant or new parent with the information that is provided by the
44 Department of Health under section 1 of this act.

45 (cf: P.L.2015, c.173, s.2)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 Current law requires DOH to make information on Down syndrome
7 available on its website to any person who renders prenatal care,
8 postnatal care, or genetic counseling of parents who receive a
9 prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. This bill, which
10 would be known as “Levi’s Law,” amends P.L.2015, c.173 (C.26:2-
11 194 et seq.) to expand the information that DOH is required to make
12 available on its website to include spina bifida, and to make the
13 information available to any person who renders prenatal care,
14 postnatal care, or genetic counseling of parents who receive a
15 prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of spina bifida.

16 Under current law, DOH: may make information on Down
17 syndrome available to any other person who has received a positive
18 test result for Down syndrome; is authorized to revise the
19 information as new information on Down Syndrome becomes
20 available; and is required to provide the information in English and
21 Spanish, and in a manner that is easily understandable for a woman
22 or the family of a child receiving a postnatal diagnosis of Down
23 syndrome.

24 Under the provisions of the bill, DOH would be: allowed to
25 make information on spina bifida to any other person who has
26 received a positive test result from a spina bifida blood test;
27 authorized to revise this information as new information about spina
28 bifida becomes available; and required to provide the information in
29 English and Spanish, and in a manner that is easily understandable
30 for a woman or the family of a child receiving a postnatal diagnosis
31 of spina bifida.