

SENATE, No. 3100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOC to provide prenatal and post-partum education and services for certain inmates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning education and services for certain pregnant
2 inmates and supplementing Title 30 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. a. Every female inmate 60 years of age and under shall be
8 tested for pregnancy upon entering a State correctional facility.
9 Upon confirmation of pregnancy, the Commissioner of Corrections
10 shall provide the appropriate prenatal and post-partum services for
11 each pregnant inmate, including but not limited to the following:

12 (1) prenatal education;

13 (2) prenatal medical evaluation and care;

14 (3) nutritional counseling and supplements as prescribed by a
15 physician;

16 (4) counseling regarding family planning, birth control, test
17 results, termination of pregnancy, child placement services, and
18 religious counseling, if desired by the inmate; and

19 (5) appropriate post-partum education and care.

20 b. A pregnant inmate electing to carry the pregnancy to term
21 shall be provided ongoing prenatal care and support including
22 obstetrical services, suitable maternity clothes, reasonable housing
23 assignments, and appropriate exercise and reduced work schedules,
24 as deemed medically advisable by the treating physician.

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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to provide

32 appropriate prenatal and post-partum services to expectant mothers.

33 Nationwide women represent a small minority of the correction

34 population; however, at any given time, approximately six to 10

35 percent of incarcerated women are pregnant (American College of

36 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2011). Many women first learn of

37 their pregnancy upon entry to a correctional facility. At the time of

38 their arrest and incarceration, many of these expectant mothers lack

39 prenatal care and need considerable support to improve the clinical

40 outcomes of their pregnancy. Incarcerated women tend to have

41 complicated and high-risk pregnancies due to increased rates of

42 substance use disorders and psychological distress.

43 This bill provides that incarcerated expectant mothers are

44 required to receive prenatal education; prenatal medical evaluation

45 and care; nutritional counseling and supplements; counseling

46 regarding family planning, birth control, test results, termination of

47 pregnancy, child placement services, and religious counseling, if

48 desired; and post-partum education and care.