

**ASSEMBLY, No. 890**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblymen Egan, Giblin, Assemblywoman Schepisi, Assemblymen Caputo, Space, Assemblywoman Caride and Assemblyman Harold J. Wirths**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires screening of certain high-risk pregnancies and reporting of fetal deaths.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/6/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning high-risk pregnancies, amending R.S.26:8-4,  
2 and supplementing P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).  
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:  
6

7 1. R.S.26:8-4 is amended to read as follows:

8 26:8-4. Duty to furnish information relative to birth, death,  
9 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership. Upon demand of the  
10 State registrar in person, by mail, by means of the NJ-EDRS, or  
11 through the local registrar, every physician, midwife, informant,  
12 funeral director, or other person having knowledge of the facts  
13 relative to any birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or  
14 domestic partnership, shall supply such information as he may  
15 possess, upon a form provided by the State registrar, or through the  
16 NJ-EDRS, or upon the original birth, death, fetal death, marriage,  
17 civil union or domestic partnership certificate or its electronic  
18 facsimile or digitized form thereof. In the case of a fetal death  
19 occurring 20 or more weeks after gestation, the particulars of that  
20 death shall be entered into a State electronic birth certificate and  
21 perinatal database.

22 (cf: P.L.2006, c.103, s.38)  
23

24 2. (New section) A health care professional, when providing  
25 prenatal care to a patient or care to a newborn patient in a federally  
26 qualified health center or other community health center, shall  
27 apply the criteria contained in the most recent edition of the  
28 Guidelines for Perinatal Care developed by the American Academy  
29 of Pediatrics and the American Congress of Obstetricians and  
30 Gynecologists, to determine which high-risk conditions require that  
31 a patient be referred to a perinatologist, and shall refer that patient  
32 to a perinatologist if the criteria are met.  
33

34 3. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
35 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Health shall adopt  
36 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of R.S.26:8-4 as  
37 amended by P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
38 and the Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
39 regulations to effectuate the purposes of section 2 of  
40 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).  
41

42 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month  
43 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioners of  
44 Health and Human Services may take such anticipatory  
45 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for  
46 the implementation of this act.

**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 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill requires that various actions be taken during the  
4 perinatal period, which is from the 20th week of gestation through  
5 the 28th day after birth, in order to improve birth outcomes and  
6 protect the health of low-income expectant mothers who may be at  
7 risk for complications.

8 Specifically, the bill amends R.S.26:8-4, which currently  
9 requires reporting of births and deaths (including fetal deaths) to the  
10 State registrar, to require that fetal deaths occurring 20 or more  
11 weeks after gestation also be reported to a State electronic birth  
12 certificate and perinatal database. In addition, the bill requires that  
13 health care professionals in clinics providing prenatal care to  
14 patients and care to newborns apply the criteria contained in the  
15 most recent edition of the Guidelines for Perinatal Care, developed  
16 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Congress  
17 of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to determine which high-risk  
18 conditions require referral to a perinatologist, which is a specialist  
19 in the care of mothers and fetuses at higher-than-normal risk for  
20 complications.