

ASSEMBLY, No. 4933

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Tucker and Mosquera

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.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2019)

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
48 after the effective date of this act, submit a report to the Legislature,

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

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

12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
13
14

15 STATEMENT 16

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

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

45 The collected survey data is to be reviewed to identify local and
46 Statewide trends in the provision of maternity care and disparities in
47 the care received by discrete racial, cultural, and socioeconomic
48 groups, and to develop programs, resources, and strategies to

1 improve access to, and the quality of, maternity care services
2 throughout the State.
3 Survey data is to be made available through the Department of
4 Health's Internet website, and the commissioner is to submit a
5 report to the Legislature concerning the results of the survey and
6 any recommendations for legislation or other action. The bill
7 specifies that published and reported data will not include any
8 personal identifying information or confidential patient information.
9 The bill authorizes the commissioner to contract with a third party
10 entity to administer the survey, review survey data, and produce the
11 required report.