

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 219

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

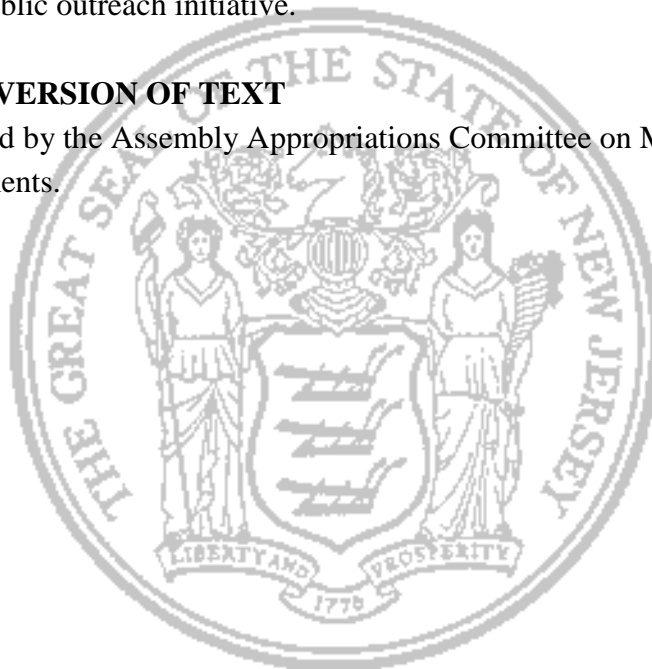
**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Chaparro, Reynolds-Jackson, Tucker,
McKnight, Mosquera and Jasey**

SYNOPSIS

Encourages DOH to develop set of standards for respectful care at birth and to conduct public outreach initiative.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 18, 2019, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** encouraging the Department of Health
2 to develop a set of standards for respectful care at birth and to
3 conduct a public outreach initiative.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, One measure of a society’s development is its ability to
6 protect mothers and babies in childbirth, yet the United States ranks
7 amongst the worst nations in the world in the number of women
8 who die from pregnancy or childbirth-related causes each year; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Maternal mortality is of particular concern in New Jersey,
10 where the maternal mortality rate ranks fifth highest in the country,
11 according to the 2018 edition of United Health Foundation’s
12 “America’s Health Rankings”; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) is
14 encouraged to take a meaningful step in improving maternal health
15 outcomes and women’s experiences at childbirth by developing a
16 set of standards for respectful care at birth, which recognizes
17 women’s self-worth, feelings, choices, and preferences in their
18 maternal health care; and
19 **WHEREAS**, New York City can serve as a model for the DOH’s efforts
20 in crafting standards for respectful care, as the city has implemented
21 its Standards for Respectful Care at Birth, which detail health
22 protections for pregnant women during and after childbirth; and
23 **WHEREAS**, New York City’s standards assert that a safe birthing
24 experience is a human right and focus on six areas of respectful
25 care, namely education, informed consent, decision making, quality
26 of care, support and dignity, and non-discrimination; and
27 **WHEREAS**, The DOH is encouraged to engage in a public outreach
28 initiative to promote these standards to women across the State and
29 to urge maternity care providers and community-based
30 organizations to integrate the new standards into their routine
31 clinical care and community engagement; and
32 **WHEREAS**, In conducting its outreach, New York City distributed
33 posters outlining its standards to all 38 city maternity hospitals and
34 other clinical providers, along with more than 100 community-
35 based organizations; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Implementing these standards and conducting Statewide
37 public outreach will not only support women in becoming more
38 active decision-makers in their birthing experience, but will also
39 help providers in respecting and being more aware of their patients’
40 rights and preferences during pregnancy, labor, and childbirth; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Furthermore, a set of standards for respectful care at birth
42 would help to reduce the stark racial gap that exists in maternal
43 health outcomes, which particularly affects women of color; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Statistics show that black infants in New Jersey are nearly
45 50 percent more likely to be born underweight than white infants

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted March 18, 2019.

1 and that, in 2013, the pregnancy-related maternal death rate for
2 white women in New Jersey was 12.8 deaths per 100,000 births
3 compared to 46.5 deaths per 100,000 births for black women; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Integrating these standards into maternal health care will
5 help foster an environment where women feel empowered to assert
6 their rights and preferences in childbirth and where providers and
7 patients work collaboratively to make decisions; now, therefore,

8
9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
10 Jersey:

11
12 1. This House respectfully encourages the Department of
13 Health to develop a set of standards for respectful care at birth,
14 modeled after the Standards for Respectful Care at Birth
15 implemented in New York City, and to conduct a public outreach
16 initiative ¹**["for promoting"]** to promote¹ the standards to women and
17 ¹**["integrating"]** to integrate¹ the standards into routine clinical care
18 and community engagement.

19
20 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
21 shall be transmitted by the ¹**["Secretary of the Senate"]** Clerk of The
22 General Assembly¹ to the Commissioner of ¹**["the Department of"]**¹
23 Health.