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Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Assemblyman Conaway and
Assemblywoman Jasey

SYNOPSIS
Urges CDC to adopt uniform data system to collect information on maternal mortality.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 18, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)
AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to adopt a uniform data system to collect information on maternal mortality.

WHEREAS, The United States is ranked 50th in the world for its maternal mortality rate, and is one of eight countries in which the maternal mortality rate has been on the rise; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have found that the estimated maternal mortality rate in the United States increased by approximately 27 percent between 2000 and 2014, with the rate increasing in nearly every state in the country; and

WHEREAS, Maternal deaths in the United States result from pregnancy-related causes such as hemorrhage, hypertensive disease, preeclampsia, embolic disease, and sepsis, addiction-related causes such as substance use disorder and overdose, and violent causes, including motor vehicle accidents, homicide, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, The most severe complications of pregnancy, generally referred to as severe maternal morbidity, affect more than 65,000 women in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implemented a Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (PRAMS) to obtain information about the frequency and causes of pregnancy-related death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Despite declines in maternal deaths in other parts of the world, the data collected under the PRAMS has shown a steady increase in the number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the most recent year for which surveillance data is available, there were approximately 16 pregnancy-related deaths per every 100,000 live births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The most recent State-level data available on this issue indicates that, from 2006 to 2008, the average pregnancy-related mortality rate in New Jersey was 14.4 deaths per 100,000 births; and

WHEREAS, Systemic reviews of maternal pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths are essential in determining strategies for developing prevention efforts, identifying at-risk populations, and understanding how to support expectant mothers and make pregnancy and the postpartum period safer; and

WHEREAS, The CDC recommends that maternal deaths be investigated through State maternal mortality review committees; and

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:
Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted March 18, 2019.
WHEREAS, Currently, fewer than 25 states conduct systemic reviews of maternal deaths or have standing maternal mortality review committees; and

WHEREAS, Although there is a bill pending before several bills have been introduced in the United States Congress, S.1112, the federal “Maternal Health Accountability Act of 2017,” that would require the CDC to support states and federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations in assessing the various factors that may contribute to maternal mortality, including quality of care and systemic problems in the delivery of health care, in the current and past sessions that would provide grants and funding to assist states in tracking and reviewing maternal mortality data, no federal legislation has yet been enacted and there is currently no uniform data system to collect information on pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths; and

WHEREAS, Adopting such a system would allow states and the federal government to share responsibility in identifying opportunities for improving maternal health care services, make recommendations on improving maternal health before, during, and after pregnancy, and implement system changes relating to maternal health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to adopt a uniform data system to collect information on maternal mortality to allow states and the federal government to share responsibility in identifying opportunities for improving maternal health care services, make recommendations on improving maternal health before, during, and after pregnancy, and implement system changes relating to maternal health care.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of State Clerk of the General Assembly to the Director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to every member of New Jersey’s congressional delegation.