

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1735

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 12, 2018

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1735.

This bill would require every health care facility; federally qualified health center; county or municipal welfare office or agency; Medical Assistance Customer Center (MACC); One-Stop Career Center operated by, or under the authority of, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; adoption agency or center operated by, or under the authority of, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children and Families; foster care agency contracted by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency; or local office of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, where practicable, to make at least one lactation room available, upon request, to any mother who is utilizing on-site services. The presence of any such lactation room would not abrogate or otherwise limit the mother's right to breast feed her baby in public, as provided by existing law.

The bill would require the Department of Health (DOH) to create signage that: contains information about breast feeding; affirms a mother's right to nurse in public; and indicates that lactation rooms are being made available for the privacy and comfort of nursing mothers, pursuant to the bill's provisions. Such signage is to be distributed directly to the various facilities identified in the bill, and is also to be posted, in a printable format, on the department's Internet website. A facility that is required to provide a lactation room pursuant to the bill's provisions would be required to display the prepared signage in a clear and conspicuous manner in the facility's public waiting room, as well as in any lactation room that is made available.

No later than one year after the bill's effective date, the DOH would be required to establish, and post at a publicly accessible location on its Internet website, a list of all facilities that have made lactation rooms available pursuant to the bill's provisions. Thereafter, the DOH would be required to make regular updates to the list, as may be necessary to ensure that it reflects the most up-to-date information on the availability of lactation rooms in the State.

The bill would additionally require the Department of Education (DOE) to annually report to the Governor and Legislature on the

lactation-related policies that have been implemented at schools, colleges, and universities in the State. Each annual report is to: summarize the applicable policies in this area; indicate the number and percentage of policies that authorize access to a designated lactation room; and indicate the manner in which such policies were communicated to students, parents, and guardians during the preceding school year. Each report would be posted at a publicly-accessible location on the DOE's Internet website, and a hyperlink to the DOE reports would also be included in the list of facilities that is posted on the DOH website.