

SENATE, No. 1870

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado, Singer, Gordon, Gopal and Rice

SYNOPSIS

Requires Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board to study racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to infant mortality.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review
2 Board and supplementing P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et seq.).
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
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7 1. a. The Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board shall
8 study the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality.

9 The purpose of the study shall be to:

10 (1) identify Statewide and regional infant death rates, trends,
11 patterns, and racial and ethnic disparities in adverse birth outcomes,
12 and medical, non-medical, and system-related factors that may have
13 contributed to infant deaths and treatment disparities;

14 (2) review the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities in
15 infant mortality in a geographic area indicate the need to increase
16 access to health care services among racial and ethnic populations
17 in that area; and

18 (3) identify ways to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic
19 disparities that contribute to infant mortality.

20 b. In conducting the study, the board may seek the advice of
21 persons specializing in the fields of neonatal and post neonatal
22 pathology, maternal and infant health, minority health advocacy, or
23 other related fields.

24 c. Within one year after the date of enactment of this act, the
25 board shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to
26 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, a
27 report containing the study's findings concerning the effects of
28 racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and
29 recommendations for legislative or other actions that can be
30 undertaken to:

31 (1) reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes in the
32 State;

33 (2) reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that
34 contribute to infant mortality; and

35 (3) increase access to health care services among racial and
36 ethnic populations in the State.

37 d. The board may prepare and submit additional reports when
38 the board deems it appropriate, and each report, with the exception
39 of the first report prepared under this section, shall additionally
40 identify the extent to which the board's prior recommendations
41 have been successfully implemented in practice and the apparent
42 impact that the implementation of such recommended changes has
43 had on infant mortality in the preceding years.
44

45 2. The board shall adopt regulations pursuant to the
46 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
47 seq.) necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review
7 board established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.175 (C.9:6-8.83 et seq.) to
8 study the effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality.

9 The purpose of the study would be to: identify Statewide and
10 regional infant death rates, trends, patterns, and racial and ethnic
11 disparities in adverse birth outcomes, and medical, non-medical,
12 and system-related factors that may have contributed to infant
13 deaths and treatment disparities; review the extent to which racial
14 and ethnic disparities in infant mortality in a geographic area
15 indicate the need to increase access to health care services among
16 racial and ethnic populations in that area; and identify ways to
17 reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to
18 infant mortality.

19 When conducting the study, the board would be allowed seek the
20 advice of persons specializing in the fields of neonatal and post
21 neonatal pathology, maternal and infant health, minority health
22 advocacy, or other related fields.

23 The bill stipulates that within one year of the enactment of the
24 bill, the board would prepare and submit to the Governor and the
25 Legislature a report containing the study's findings concerning the
26 effects of racial and ethnic disparities on infant mortality and
27 recommendations for legislative or other actions that could be taken
28 to: reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes in the State;
29 reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to
30 infant mortality; and increase access to health care services among
31 racial and ethnic populations in the State.

32 The board could prepare and submit additional reports when the
33 board deems it appropriate, and each report prepared by the board
34 pursuant to the bill, with the exception of the first report, would
35 identify the extent to which the board's prior recommendations
36 have been successfully implemented and the impact the
37 implementation of the recommended changes has had on infant
38 mortality in the preceding years.