

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 126

---

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 218th LEGISLATURE

---

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RONALD L. RICE**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Senator ROBERT W. SINGER**

**District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Vitale and T.Kean**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Centers for Disease Control and  
2       Prevention to adopt a uniform data system to collect information  
3       on maternal mortality.  
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43   **WHEREAS**, Currently, fewer than 25 states conduct systemic reviews  
44      of maternal deaths or have standing maternal mortality review  
45      committees; and

46   **WHEREAS**, Although there is a bill pending before the United States  
47      Congress, S.1112, the federal “Maternal Health Accountability Act  
48      of 2017,” that would require the CDC to support states and

1 federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations in  
2 assessing the various factors that may contribute to maternal  
3 mortality, including quality of care and systemic problems in the  
4 delivery of health care, there is no uniform data system to collect  
5 information on pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths;  
6 and

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

13  
14 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

15  
16 1. This House respectfully urges the Centers for Disease  
17 Control and Prevention to adopt a uniform data system to  
18 collect information on maternal mortality to allow states and the  
19 federal government to share responsibility in identifying  
20 opportunities for improving maternal health care services, make  
21 recommendations on improving maternal health before, during, and  
22 after pregnancy, and implement system changes relating to maternal  
23 health care.

24  
25 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
26 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Director of the  
27 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to every member of  
28 New Jersey's congressional delegation.

29  
30

31 STATEMENT

32

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