

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4829

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4829 (1R).

As amended by the committee, this bill requires the establishment of a State website providing comprehensive information on reproductive rights under State law, as well as information concerning health benefits coverage for reproductive health care services. As used in the bill, "reproductive health care services" means all medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system including, but not limited to, services relating to pregnancy, contraception, or termination of a pregnancy.

Specifically, the bill requires that, no later than 180 days after the effective date of the bill, the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the State Treasurer, is to provide on its Internet website comprehensive information on reproductive rights. The information provided on the website is to include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

1) the right under State law to access and receive emergency reproductive health care services;

2) the right under State law to access and use contraception, including, but not limited to, condoms, diaphragms, spermicides, contraceptive vaginal rings, transdermal contraceptive patches, contraceptive hormonal injections, hormonal contraceptive pills, uterine implants, intrauterine devices, and surgical and non-surgical sterilization;

3) the right under State law to self-determination concerning the use of contraception, and the right under State law to refuse sterilization;

4) the right under State law to access and use prescription and non-prescription medications for reproductive health care;

5) the right under State law to carry a pregnancy to term and the right to terminate a pregnancy, as well as the right under State law to access services related to childbirth and abortion care;

6) the right under State law to access preventative reproductive health care services;

7) the right under State law to receive reproductive health care services regardless of insurance status, along with links to appropriate Internet websites and other resources that can provide assistance in enrolling individuals without insurance or who are underinsured in a health benefits plan or to apply for medical assistance under the Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare programs;

8) a resource page, or a link to a resource website, where patients can locate current, verified reproductive health care providers, including abortion care providers; and

9) information on where and how to file a complaint in the event that an individual's reproductive rights are violated.

The information provided on or through the Internet website may be made available in such additional languages as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of Health.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4829 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3275 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date, with amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- 1) remove references to reproductive rights under federal law;
- 2) clarify that the information provided under the bill will be limited to a description of reproductive rights established under State law;
- 3) remove subsection d. of section 1 of the bill, which would have required the commissioners responsible for implementing the bill to appear before certain legislative committees to explain why the bill was not implemented as required, in the event there were issues with implementation;
- 4) remove a requirement for the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the Commissioner of Human Services, and the State Treasurer to jointly establish a website under the bill;
- 5) require the Commissioner of Health to consult with the Attorney General, as well as with the Commissioners of Banking and Insurance and the State Treasurer, in publishing the information required under the bill;
- 6) remove a requirement to establish a new and unique website concerning reproductive rights information, and instead provide that the information will be posted on the Department of Health's Internet website;
- 7) in lieu of requiring the information required under the bill be published in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in New Jersey, provide that the Department of Health make the information available in such other languages as it deems appropriate; and
- 8) revise the effective date of the bill from immediately upon enactment to 180 days after enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The most recent fiscal analysis from the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the provisions of this bill will result in a one-time outlay of State resources of up to \$75,000 in order to design and establish a new website, as described under the bill. To the extent that the website is created by a third party contractor, the cost of the bill will be closer to \$75,000; to the extent that the website is created by existing State employees, the cost will be lower. This estimate assumes that existing staff will perform the ongoing maintenance of the website; and therefore any cost of the bill beyond the creation of the website will be absorbed into the State's existing budget.