

ASSEMBLY, No. 4624

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

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District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes interagency council on menopause in DOH.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/22/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing an interagency council on menopause and
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. There is established an Interagency Council on Menopause
8 in the Department of Health to promote and support access to best
9 practice health care for a person through their menopause transition
10 and post-reproductive years, enabling the person to achieve optimal
11 health and well-being.

12 b. The interagency council shall consist of 15 members as
13 follows:

14 (1) the Director of the Office of Women's Health in the
15 Department of Health, the Assistant Commissioner of Family
16 Health Services in the Department of Health, and the Director of the
17 Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, or
18 their designees, who shall serve ex officio; and

19 (2) 12 public members to be appointed by the Governor, who
20 shall include: a person with perimenopause, a person with
21 menopause, a public health educator, an expert in perimenopause
22 and menopause treatment and research, a representative of a
23 women's health organization, an epidemiologist, a gynecologist
24 licensed to practice in this State who is a menopause specialist, a
25 general practitioner licensed to practice in this State with expertise
26 in treating persons experiencing perimenopause or menopause, a
27 geriatrician licensed to practice in this State, a registered
28 professional nurse licensed to practice in this State, a nutritionist
29 who has experience in providing services to persons with
30 perimenopause or menopause, and a representative of a women's
31 health advocacy organization.

32 c. Vacancies in the membership of the interagency council shall
33 be filled in the same manner as is provided for the original
34 appointments. The public members of the council shall serve
35 without compensation but may be reimbursed for traveling and
36 other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties
37 within the limits of funds made available to the council for its
38 purposes.

39 d. The interagency council shall organize as soon as practicable
40 but no later than 60 days following the appointment of its members
41 and shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the
42 members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not
43 be a member of the council.

44 e. The interagency council may meet at the call of its chair and
45 hold hearings at the times and in the places it deems appropriate and
46 necessary to fulfill its charge. The council shall be entitled to call
47 to its assistance, and avail itself of the services of the employees of,
48 any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau,

1 commission, or agency as it may require and as may be available to
2 it for its purposes.

3 f. The interagency council may seek the advice of experts, such
4 as persons specializing in the field of women's health, public
5 health, psychology, or other related fields, as deemed appropriate
6 by the membership of the council.

7 g. The Department of Health shall provide staff services to the
8 interagency council.

9

10 2. The purpose of the interagency council shall be to:

11 a. promote the health and quality of a person's life during
12 midlife and beyond through an understanding of perimenopause,
13 menopause, and healthy aging;

14 b. disseminate evidence-based knowledge concerning
15 perimenopause and menopause to health care professionals through
16 multi-lingual and multi-cultural educational resources, programs,
17 and events;

18 c. support and promote research into all aspects of
19 perimenopause, menopause, and post-reproductive health;

20 d. facilitate collaboration and information-exchange between
21 health care professionals, medical societies, governmental agencies,
22 research institutions, community-based organizations, and other
23 organizations or entities with shared interests and goals relating to
24 the study of, and treating persons experiencing, perimenopause or
25 menopause;

26 e. encourage the multi-disciplinary delivery of health care from
27 menopause transition to a person's post-reproductive years;

28 f. develop and provide State-supported evidence-based treatment
29 services related to perimenopause, menopause, and post-
30 reproductive health;

31 g. increase awareness and understanding of perimenopause and
32 menopause through the provision of multi-lingual, culturally
33 sensitive health information to health care professionals and policy
34 makers;

35 h. develop and establish a plan to disseminate information,
36 through television, radio, Internet, print media, social media, and
37 other forms of communication, about new treatment options,
38 research findings, and ways in which a person experiencing
39 perimenopause or menopause can access services in the State; and

40 i. make policy recommendations to the Legislature on the
41 quality of, and access to, treatment and services for persons
42 experiencing perimenopause or menopause.

43

44 3. The Commissioner of Health shall report to the Governor and,
45 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
46 Legislature, no later than 18 months after the effective date of this
47 act, and annually thereafter, on the activities and accomplishments
48 of the interagency council and its findings and recommendations on

1 issues relating to the quality of, and access to, treatment and
2 services for persons experiencing perimenopause or menopause in
3 this State.

4

5 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

9

10 This bill establishes an Interagency Council on Menopause in the
11 Department of Health (DOH) to promote and support access to best
12 practice health care for a person through their menopause transition
13 and post-reproductive years, enabling the person to achieve optimal
14 health and well-being.

15 Under the provisions of the bill, the interagency council is to
16 consist of 15 members as follows: (1) the Director of the Office of
17 Women's Health in the DOH, the Assistant Commissioner of
18 Family Health Services in the DOH, and the Director of the
19 Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, or
20 their designees, who will serve *ex officio*; and (2) 12 public
21 members appointed by the Governor, who include: a person with
22 perimenopause, a person with menopause, a public health educator,
23 an expert in perimenopause and menopause treatment and research,
24 a representative of a women's health organization, an
25 epidemiologist, a gynecologist licensed to practice in this State who
26 is a menopause specialist, a general practitioner licensed to practice
27 in this State with expertise in treating persons experiencing
28 perimenopause or menopause, a geriatrician licensed to practice in
29 this State, a registered professional nurse licensed to practice in this
30 State, a nutritionist who has experience in providing services to
31 persons with perimenopause or menopause, and a representative of
32 a women's health advocacy organization.

33 The purpose of the interagency council is to: promote the health
34 and quality of a person's life during midlife and beyond through an
35 understanding of perimenopause, menopause, and healthy aging;
36 disseminate evidence-based knowledge concerning perimenopause
37 and menopause to health care professionals through multi-lingual
38 and multi-cultural educational resources, programs, and events;
39 support and promote research into all aspects of perimenopause,
40 menopause, and post-reproductive health; facilitate collaboration
41 and information-exchange between health care professionals,
42 medical societies, governmental agencies, research institutions,
43 community-based organizations, and other organizations or entities
44 with shared interests and goals relating to the study of, and treating
45 persons experiencing, perimenopause or menopause; encourage the
46 multi-disciplinary delivery of health care from menopause transition
47 to a person's post-reproductive years; develop and provide State-
48 supported evidence-based treatment services related to

1 perimenopause, menopause, and post-reproductive health; increase
2 awareness and understanding of perimenopause and menopause
3 through the provision of multi-lingual, culturally sensitive health
4 information to health care professionals and policy makers; develop
5 and establish a plan to disseminate information, through television,
6 radio, Internet, print media, social media, and other forms of
7 communication, about new treatment options, research findings, and
8 ways in which a person experiencing perimenopause or menopause
9 can access services in the State; and make policy recommendations
10 to the Legislature on the quality of, and access to, treatment and
11 services for persons experiencing perimenopause or menopause.

12 The bill also requires the Commissioner of Health to report to the
13 Governor and the Legislature, no later than 18 months after the
14 effective date of bill, and annually thereafter, on the activities and
15 accomplishments of the interagency council and its findings and
16 recommendations on issues relating to the quality of, and access to,
17 treatment and services for persons experiencing perimenopause or
18 menopause in this State.