

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3864

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3864.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the “New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center Act” and appropriates \$23,220,000.

As amended, the bill creates the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (center), which will be a Trenton-based health center serving as a central hub to provide maternal and infant care and other services as outlined in the bill, coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well as private organizations, to promote equitable maternal and infant health care services, implement strategies related to health care and social service delivery, perinatal workforce development, community engagement, data collection, research, and analysis, and serve as an incubator of new enterprises, therapeutics, and technological innovations leading to better health outcomes and reduced mortality and morbidity rates for women and children.

The center will be overseen by the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (authority). All powers, duties, and responsibilities currently exercised by the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC) will be transferred to the authority. The authority is to be governed by a board consisting of 15 members, which will have certain powers and duties as provided for in the bill. Board members will receive an annual salary of \$20,000.

The board will appoint a president and a chief executive officer for the authority, who will be responsible for the selection of authority staff. The president and chief executive officer, and center and authority staff, will be exempt from civil service requirements.

As amended, the bill requires the board to coordinate with a community advisory committee to support and inform the work of the authority. The community advisory committee is to consist of 11 members comprising representatives of diverse community groups with relevant experience as providers of maternal, infant, and

childhood health care services or as recipients of maternal health care services. The committee members will receive an annual stipend of \$20,000.

The authority will be required to establish and maintain a special, nonlapsing fund to be known as the “New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority Fund.” The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority Fund the sum of \$23,220,000 to cover the authority’s operational, administrative, and other expenses, with at least \$3,220,000 of that sum allocated for implementation of the bill, startup costs, staff, and stipends.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the bill to more clearly outline the role, responsibilities, and mandate of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center.

The committee amendments add language expressly creating the position of president and chief executive officer of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority and identifying how that individual is to be appointed.

The committee amendments add examples of committees the board may establish, and expressly authorize the board to hire support staff.

The committee amendments revise the requirements to appoint certain public members to the authority to require that the members appointed upon recommendation of the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly be made in consultation with the Black, Latino, and Asian-American Legislative Caucuses.

The committee amendments expand the list of representative experience the board is to seek to include among its members, to require the board additionally have members with experience in doula care and midwifery, as well as individuals with particular experience, including lived experience, related to racial disparities affecting delivery of health care services and mortality and morbidity rates.

The committee amendments revise the bill to provide that board members will receive an annual salary of \$20,000. The amendments clarify that the board members who are serving as chairperson and vice-chairperson of the community advisory committee may receive both this salary and the \$20,000 stipend authorized under the bill for community advisory committee members.

The committee amendments add language providing that the center may provide lactation support services.

The committee amendments add a provision authorizing the board to recommend candidates for appointment to the community advisory committee, and to require the Governor to consider the board’s recommendations when making appointment to the committee.

The committee amendments remove certain references in the current statutes to a federal bill that was never enacted.

The committee amendments add various definitions established under the bill to the law establishing the New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC).

The committee amendments further revise the membership of the NJMCQC, including adding an additional public member.

The committee amendments make various technical changes to improve the overall clarity of the bill, harmonize internal terminology, make certain formatting corrections, and make certain grammatical corrections.