

SENATE, No. 4681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES BEACH
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires health care professionals to inform certain pregnant patients that their children and family members should undergo lead screening.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning lead screening of children and amending
2 P.L.2025, c.193.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.193 (C.26:2-137.9) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. A licensed health care professional, which shall include a
10 licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, certified advanced
11 practice nurse, certified nurse midwife, certified professional
12 midwife, and certified midwife, who provides prenatal maternity
13 care to a pregnant person shall assess the person for possible risk
14 factors for lead exposure and elevated blood lead levels based on
15 the most recent guidelines and recommendations of the federal
16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American
17 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

18 b. If the health care professional cannot perform a required lead
19 screening, the health care professional may refer the patient, in
20 writing, to another health care professional who is able to perform
21 the lead screening.

22 c. If the health care professional receives laboratory test results
23 indicating that the pregnant person has an elevated blood lead level,
24 the health care professional shall notify the patient, in writing,
25 about the test results and shall additionally provide the patient with
26 an explanation, in plain language, of the significance of lead
27 poisoning. The health care professional shall **also take appropriate**
28 **measures to ensure** inform the patient that any of the patient's
29 children or other members of the patient's household who are under
30 the age of six **are, or have been,** should be screened for lead
31 exposure.

32 d. The health care professional shall not be required to conduct
33 lead screening under **this act** P.L.2025, c.193 (C.26:2-137.3 et
34 seq.) and P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
35 bill) if the patient objects to the testing in writing or if the health
36 care professional determines that another health care provider has
37 already conducted the lead screening required under **this act**
38 P.L.2025, c.193 (C.26:2-137.3 et seq.) and P.L. , c. (C.)
39 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

40 e. The health care professional shall comply with the blood
41 sample collection requirements specified in section 4 of P.L.1995,
42 c.328 (C.26:2-137.5).
43 (cf: P.L.2025, c.193, s.2)

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill amends N.J.S.A.26:2-137.9 to require a health care
4 professional to inform a pregnant patient, if the patient has an
5 elevated blood lead level, that the patient’s children or other or
6 other members of the patient’s household under the age of six
7 should be screened for lead exposure.

8 Currently, the law requires a health care professional to take
9 appropriate measures to ensure that any of the pregnant patient’s
10 children or other family members under the age of six are or have
11 been screened for lead exposure.

12 This bill would require a health care professional to inform the
13 patient, instead of taking appropriate measures to ensure that the
14 patient’s children or other family members under the age of six
15 have are or have been screened lead exposure, that the patient
16 should have such children or family members screened for lead
17 exposure.