

CHAPTER 137

AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.26:2-167.1 "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.

1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the Office on Minority and Multicultural Health. The commissioner shall require the office to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority populations in the State in the following priority areas: asthma; infant mortality; breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer screening; kidney disease; HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child immunizations; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries and violence. As used in this act, "office" means the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.

C.26:2-167.2 Duties of office.

2. The office shall:

a. Establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing health disparities in the areas provided in section 1 of this act.

b. Enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas provided in section 1 of this act. To the extent feasible, the office shall conduct the assessment so that the results may be compared to national data.

C.36:2-167.3 Rules, regulations.

3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 1, 2004.