

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4848

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

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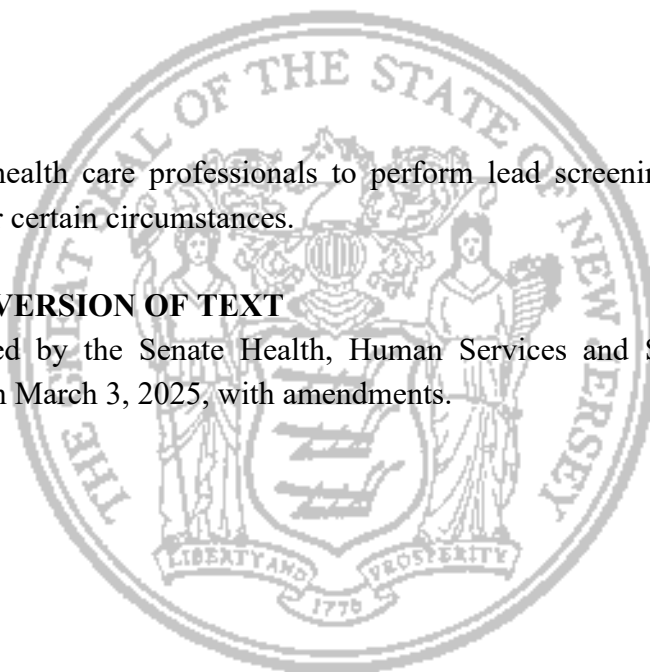
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Ramirez, Assemblymen Schaer, Sampson, Assemblywomen Bagolie, Swain, Senators Greenstein, McKnight, Burgess, Timberlake and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires health care professionals to perform lead screening on pregnant persons under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on March 3, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning lead screening and supplementing P.L.1995,
2 c.328 (C.26:2-137.2 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Department” means the Department of Health

9 “Lead screening” means the application of a detection technique
10 to measure a person’s blood lead level and determine the extent of
11 the person’s recent exposure to lead.

12

13 2. a. A ²licensed health care professional, which shall include a
14 licensed² physician ¹[or] ¹, ²[registered professional nurse,
15 physician assistant, or prenatal care provider¹ as appropriate,]
16 licensed physician assistant, certified advanced practice nurse,
17 certified nurse midwife, certified professional midwife, and certified
18 midwife, who provides prenatal maternity care to a pregnant person²
19 shall assess ²[each pregnant] the² person ²[to whom the physician
20 ¹[or] ¹ registered professional nurse ¹, physician assistant, or prenatal
21 care provider¹ provides health care services]² for possible risk factors
22 for lead exposure and elevated blood lead levels ²[. If the assessment
23 identifies at least one risk factor in accordance with] based on² the
24 most recent ²guidelines and² recommendations of the federal Centers
25 for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of
26 Obstetricians and Gynecologists ²[, the physician ¹[or] ¹ nurse ¹,
27 physician assistant, or prenatal care provider¹ shall perform, ¹[once]
28 twice¹ per pregnancy, lead screening on the patient ¹, in the first and
29 third trimesters¹]².

30

31 b. If the ²[physician ¹[or] ¹ registered professional nurse,
32 physician assistant, or prenatal care provider¹ as appropriate,] health
33 care professional² cannot perform ²[the] a² required lead screening,
34 the ²[physician ¹[or registered professional] ¹ nurse ¹, physician
35 assistant, or prenatal care provider¹] health care professional² may
36 refer the patient, in writing, to another ²[physician ¹[or registered
37 professional] ¹ nurse ¹, physician assistant, or prenatal care
38 provider¹] health care professional² who is able to perform the lead
39 screening.

40

41 c. If ²[a physician ¹[or] ¹ registered professional nurse,
42 physician assistant, or prenatal care provider¹ as appropriate,] the
43 health care professional² receives laboratory test results indicating that
44 the pregnant person has an elevated blood lead level, the ²[physician

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AFI committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

²Senate SHH committee amendments adopted March 3, 2025.

1 1[or registered professional] ,¹ nurse ¹, physician assistant, or prenatal
2 care provider¹] health care professional² shall notify the patient, in
3 writing, about the test results¹[,]¹ and shall additionally provide the
4 patient with an explanation, in plain language, of the significance of
5 lead poisoning ²[¹and information concerning the specific dangers of
6 lead poisoning during a pregnancy. The physician, nurse, physician
7 assistant, or prenatal care provider shall also provide the patient with
8 information on how to access lead assistance programs offered by the
9 Department of Community Affairs¹]². The ²[physician ¹[or
10 registered professional] ,¹ nurse ¹, physician assistant, or prenatal care
11 provider¹] health care professional² shall also take appropriate
12 measures to ensure that any of the patient's children or other members
13 of the patient's household who are under the age of six are, or have
14 been, screened for lead exposure.

15 d. ²[A physician ¹[or] ,¹ registered professional nurse,
16 ¹physician assistant, or prenatal care provider,¹ as appropriate,] The
17 health care professional² shall not be required to conduct lead
18 screening under this act if the patient objects to the testing in writing
19 ²or if the health care professional determines that another health care
20 provider has already conducted the lead screening required under this
21 act².

22 e. ²[A physician ¹[or] ,¹ registered professional nurse,
23 ¹physician assistant, or prenatal care provider,¹ as appropriate,] The
24 health care professional² shall comply with the blood sample
25 collection requirements specified in section 4 of P.L.1995, c.328
26 (C.26:2-137.5).

27
28 3. A laboratory which performs a lead screening test pursuant
29 to subsection a. of section 2 of this act shall report the test results to
30 the department, the local health department in the municipality in
31 which the pregnant person who is the subject of the test resides, and
32 the ²[physician ¹[or] ,¹ registered professional nurse, ¹physician
33 assistant, or prenatal care provider,¹ as appropriate,] health care
34 professional² that submitted the specimen, within five business days
35 of obtaining the test result.

36
37 4. a. A record of all lead screenings conducted pursuant to
38 section 2 of this act shall be included in the central database
39 maintained by the department in accordance with provisions of
40 section 5 of P.L. 1995, c.328 (C.26:2-137.6).

41 b. The information reported to and compiled by the department
42 pursuant to this act shall be confidential, except that the department
43 may make such statistical reports available using information
44 compiled from the database. The information included in the
45 statistical reports shall exclude the name or other personal
46 identifying information of the pregnant person screened in

1 accordance with all other federal and State laws regarding the
2 confidentiality of medical information.

3

4 5. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and regulations
5 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
6 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to carry out the provisions of this
7 act.

8

9 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
10 next following enactment.