



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose M. Serrano

Bronx Asthma Study Legislation Headed To Governor Cuomo's Desk For Signature

JOSE M. SERRANO July 8, 2016

| ISSUE: **HEALTH**



The New York State Senate passed Senator José M. Serrano's bill S1165, which mandates the New York State Department of Health to conduct an intensive study on the alarmingly high asthma rates in the Bronx and to use the findings to create a comprehensive remedial plan.

The legislation addresses the severe problem of asthma in the Bronx by ordering a study be conducted by some of the best public health professionals in New York State. Serrano's legislation demands that key components of the Bronx's asthma epidemic be scrutinized.

These major points include an analysis of high-risk neighborhoods examining disparities in income, race and ethnicity, public and private housing, proximity to major sources of air pollution, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing medical facilities. The study and remedial plan must be completed one year from being signed into law.

"Health disparities, especially asthma, have disproportionately affected vulnerable communities throughout the Bronx. My hope is that this legislation will give us a better understanding of the causes and possible remedies for this chronic problem. My sincere thanks to Assembly Member Luis Sepulveda for his leadership on this critical issue."

Asthma affects more than one million people in the state of New York at a rate of 1 out of every 11 people, which is one of the highest statewide rates in the country. For every ten thousand residents in the Bronx, 247 have had asthma-related emergency room incidents - nearly three times the statewide average. Approximately twenty percent of the children in the Bronx suffer from asthma and the Bronx County rate of asthma is approximately four to five times greater than the national average. Assembly Member

This year marks the first time that the bill has also passed both the New York State Senate and Assembly, where it was sponsored by Assemblymember Luis R. Sepulveda. The bill will now be forwarded to the Desk of Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign into law.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2015-S1165

- Introduced
 - ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Vetoed By Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Authorizes a study on the high incidence of asthma in the borough of the Bronx in the city of New York and to prepare a remedial plan

January 09, 2015

Vetoed

Sponsored by **Jose M. Serrano**

Do you support this bill?