

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking

Womens Public Health Research Advisory Panel

Petitioner: Caleb L. McGillvary, Trenton State Prison.

Take notice that on July 24, 2026, the Department of Health (Department) received a petition for rulemaking from Caleb L. McGillvary, Trenton State Prison, Trenton, New Jersey.

Substance or Nature of the Requested Rulemaking Action

The petitioner requests that the Department promulgate new rules at existing N.J.A.C. 8:52, the Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, “establishing:

- [1] A permanent Women’s Public Health Research Advisory Panel (‘Panel’);
- [2] Procedures requiring review of State-supported public health research priorities through a women’s-health impact lens;
- [3] Procedures requiring the Panel to issue annual recommendations regarding public-health research priorities affecting women;
- [4] Procedures requiring consideration of women’s perspectives in the allocation and recommendation of State-supported research grants, pilot programs, public-health initiatives, and academic partnerships; [and]
- [5] Annual reporting requirements concerning unmet women’s health research needs.”

The petitioner provides suggested text of new rules to appear at N.J.A.C. 8:52-15.

The petitioner states that his interest in the requested rulemaking is his status as a resident of the State who “has an interest in improving women’s health outcomes, reducing unnecessary pain and disability, promoting evidence-based medicine, and ensuring that potentially beneficial therapies receive adequate scientific evaluation[,] reducing preventable losses of educational attainment, workplace productivity, healthcare expenditures, and quality of life associated with dysmenorrhea and other real women-specific issues.”

Problem or Purpose of the Request

The petitioner states that the problem that the requested rulemaking would address is the structural underrepresentation of women’s perspectives in public health research priority-setting. The petitioner describes the condition of dysmenorrhea as an illustrative example of this issue in that “research attention devoted to novel interventions for the condition remains comparatively limited when viewed against the prevalence of the condition and its economic effects,” and “conditions that significantly affect women may receive less sustained attention than their prevalence and societal costs would otherwise warrant.” The petitioner identifies other health conditions specific to women as to which the petitioner asserts the existence of research gaps, and states that the “cumulative economic burden associated with these conditions likely reaches billions of dollars annually through healthcare expenditures, lost productivity, reduced workforce participation, and secondary social consequences.” The petitioner provides no citations to authority for these statements.

The petitioner provides the following as suggested text of the new rules:

“TITLE 8

HEALTH

CHAPTER 52

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR LOCAL

BOARDS OF HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY

SUBCHAPTER 15. HEALTH RELATED RESEARCH

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15.5 Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to ensure systematic consideration of actual, biological women’s health needs in the development of State public-health research priorities and recommendations.

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15.6 Establishment of Actual, Biological Women’s Public Health Research Advisory Panel

(a) The Department shall establish an Actual, Biological Women’s Public Health Research Advisory Panel.

(b) The Panel shall consist of no fewer than fifteen members appointed by the Commissioner.

(c) Membership shall include:

Actual, biological women physicians;

Actual, biological women public-health professionals;

Actual, biological women researchers;

Actual, biological women nurses;

Representatives of women’s health advocacy organizations;

Actual, biological women with lived experience regarding significant women's health conditions.

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15.7 Duties

The Panel shall:

- Review public-health research priorities;

- Identify unmet women's health research needs;

- Evaluate disease burden quality-of-life impacts;

- Consider economic consequences associated with women's health conditions;

- Submit annual recommendations.

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15.8 Annual Report

The Department shall publish an annual report summarizing:

- Research gaps identified;

- Recommended funding priorities;

- Emerging public-health concerns affecting women;

- Agency responses to recommendations."

In accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.3, the Department will subsequently mail to the petitioner and file with the Office of Administrative Law a notice of action on the petition.