4525

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 11, 2011

Introduced by Sen. McDONALD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to authorizing nurse practitioners to admit a patient to an inpatient mental health unit on a voluntary or involuntary basis

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision 9-a to read as follows:

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- 9-A. "NURSE PRACTITIONER" MEANS A CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER ACTING WITHIN HIS OR HER LAWFUL SCOPE OF PRACTICE.
- S 2. The section heading, the opening paragraph of subdivision (a) and subdivision (b) of section 9.05 of the mental hygiene law, such section as renumbered by chapter 978 and the laws of 1977, are amended to read as follows:

Examining physicians and NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND medical certificates. A person is disqualified from acting as an examining physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER in the following cases:

- (b) A certificate, as required by this article, must show that the person is mentally ill and shall be based on an examination of the person alleged to be mentally ill made within ten days prior to the date of admission. The date of the certificate shall be the date of such examination. All certificates shall contain the facts and circumstances upon which the judgment of the physicians OR NURSE PRACTITIONER is based and shall show that the condition of the person examined is such that he OR SHE needs involuntary care and treatment in a hospital and such other information as the commissioner may by regulation require.
- S 3. Subdivision (a) of section 9.27 of the mental hygiene law, such section as renumbered by chapter 978 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:
- 24 (a) The director of a hospital may receive and retain therein as a 25 patient any person alleged to be mentally ill and in need of involuntary 26 care and treatment upon the certificates of two examining physicians OR

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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NURSE PRACTITIONERS, accompanied by an application for the admission of such person. The examination may be conducted jointly but each examining physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall execute a separate certificate.

- S 4. Subdivisions (b) and (c) of section 9.40 of the mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 723 of the laws of 1989, are amended to read as follows:
- (b) The director shall cause examination of such persons to be initiated by a staff physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER of the program as soon as practicable and in any event within six hours after the person is received into the program's emergency room. Such person may be retained for observation, care and treatment and further examination for up to twenty-four hours if, at the conclusion of such examination, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER determines that such person may have a mental illness for which immediate observation, care and treatment in a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program is appropriate, and which is likely to result in serious harm to the person or others.
- (c) No person shall be involuntarily retained in accordance with this section for more than twenty-four hours, unless (i) within that time the determination of the examining staff physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER has been confirmed after examination by another physician OR NURSE TIONER who is a member of the psychiatric staff of the program and (ii) the person is admitted to an extended observation bed, as such defined in section 31.27 of this chapter. At the time of admission to an extended observation bed, such person shall be served with written notice of his status and rights as a patient under this section. notice shall contain the patient's name. The notice shall be provided to same persons and in the manner as if provided pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of this article. Written requests for hearings on the question of need for immediate observation, care and treatment shall be made, and court hearings shall be scheduled and held, in the manner provided pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of article, provided however, if a person is removed or admitted to a hospital pursuant to subdivision (e) or (f) of this section the director of such hospital shall be substituted for the director of the comprehensive psychiatric emergency program in all legal proceedings regarding the continued retention of the person.
- S 5. Section 9.55 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 598 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:
- S 9.55 Emergency admissions for immediate observation, care and treatment; powers of qualified psychiatrists OR NURSE PRACTITION-ERS.

A qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall have the power to direct the removal of any person, whose treatment for a mental illness he or she is either supervising or providing in a facility licensed or operated by the office of mental health which does not have an inpatient psychiatric service, to a hospital approved by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of this article or to a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program, if he or she determines upon examination of such person that such person appears to have a mental illness for which immediate observation, care and treatment in a hospital is appropriate and which is likely to result in serious harm to himself or herself or others. Upon the request of such qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, peace officers, when acting pursuant to their special duties, or police officers, who are members of an authorized police department or force or of a sheriff's department shall take into custody and transport any such person. Upon the request of a qualified

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psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER an ambulance service, as defined by subdivision two of section three thousand one of the public health law, is authorized to transport any such person. Such person may then be admitted to a hospital in accordance with the provisions of section 9.39 of this article or to a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program in accordance with the provisions of section 9.40 of this article.

- S 6. Section 9.55 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 847 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:
- S 9.55 Emergency admissions for immediate observation, care and treatment; powers of qualified psychiatrists OR NURSE PRACTITION-ERS.

A qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall have the power to direct the removal of any person, whose treatment for a mental illness SHE is either supervising or providing in a facility licensed or operated by the office of mental health which does not have an inpatient psychiatric service, to a hospital approved by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of this article, if he OR SHE determines upon examination of such person that such person appears to have a mental illness for which immediate observation, care and treatment in a hospital is appropriate and which is likely to result in serious harm to himself OR HERSELF or others, as defined in section 9.39 of this Upon the request of such qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTI-TIONER, peace officers, when acting pursuant to their special duties, or police officers, who are members of an authorized police department or force or of a sheriff's department shall take into custody and transport such person. Upon the request of a qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER an ambulance service, as defined by subdivision two of section three thousand one of the public health law, is authorized to transport any such person. Such person may then be admitted in ance with the provisions of section 9.39 of this article.

- S 7. Section 9.57 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 598 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:
- S 9.57 Emergency admissions for immediate observation, care and treatment; powers of emergency room physicians OR NURSE PRACTI-TIONERS.

physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who has examined a person in an emergency room or provided emergency medical services at a general hospital, as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health law, which does not have an inpatient psychiatric service, or a physician OR PRACTITIONER who has examined a person in a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program shall be authorized to request that the director of the program or hospital, or the director's designee, removal of such person to a hospital approved by the commissioner pursuto subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of this article or to a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program, if the physician OR NURSE PRACTI-TIONER determines upon examination of such person that such person to have a mental illness for which immediate care and treatment in a hospital is appropriate and which is likely to result in harm to himself or others. Upon the request of the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the director of the program or hospital or the director's designee, is authorized to direct peace officers, when acting pursuant to their special duties, or police officers, who are members of authorized police department or force or of a sheriff's department to take into custody and transport any such person. Upon the request of emergency room physician, A NURSE PRACTITIONER, or the director of the program or hospital, or the director's designee, an ambulance service,

as defined by subdivision two of section three thousand one of the public health law, is authorized to take into custody and transport any such person. Such person may then be admitted to a hospital in accordance with the provisions of section 9.39 of this article or to a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program in accordance with the provisions of section 9.40 of this article.

- S 8. Section 9.57 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 847 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:
- S 9.57 Emergency admissions for immediate observation, care and treatment; powers of emergency room physicians OR NURSE PRACTI-TIONERS.

A physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who has examined a person in an emergency room or provided emergency medical services at a general hospital, as defined in article twenty-eight of the public health law, which does not have an inpatient psychiatric service, shall be authorized to request that the director of the hospital, or his OR HER desigdirect the removal of such person to a hospital approved by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 9.39 of this artiif the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER determines upon examination of such person that such person appears to have a mental illness for which immediate care and treatment in a hospital is appropriate and which is likely to result in serious harm to himself OR HERSELF others, as defined in section 9.39 of this article. Upon the request of the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the director of the hospital or his OR HER designee, is authorized to direct peace officers, when acting pursuant to their special duties, or police officers, who are members of an authorized police department or force or of a sheriff's department to into custody and transport any such person. Upon the request of an emergency room physician, A NURSE PRACTITIONER, or the director hospital, or his OR HER designee, an ambulance service, as defined by subdivision two of section three thousand one of the public health law, authorized to take into custody and transport any such person. Such person may then be admitted in accordance with the provisions of section 9.39 of this article.

- S 9. Subparagraph (v) of paragraph 1 and paragraphs 3 and 4 of subdivision (e) and subdivisions (h), (i), (k) and (n) of section 9.60 of the mental hygiene law, as amended and paragraph 4 of subdivision (e) as added by chapter 158 of the laws of 2005, are amended to read as follows:
- (v) a qualified psychiatrist OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who is either supervising the treatment of or treating the subject of the petition for a mental illness; or
- (3) The petition shall be accompanied by an affirmation or affidavit of a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, who shall not be the petitioner, stating either that:
- (i) such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER has personally examined the subject of the petition no more than ten days prior to the submission of the petition, recommends assisted outpatient treatment for the subject of the petition, and is willing and able to testify at the hearing on the petition; or
- (ii) no more than ten days prior to the filing of the petition, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER or his or her designee has made appropriate attempts but has not been successful in eliciting the cooperation of the subject of the petition to submit to an examination, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER has reason to suspect that the subject of the petition meets the criteria for assisted outpatient treatment, and such

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physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER is willing and able to examine the subject of the petition and testify at the hearing on the petition.

- (4) In counties with a population of less than seventy-five thousand, the affirmation or affidavit required by paragraph three of this subdivision may be made by a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who is an employee of the office. The office is authorized to make available, at no cost to the county, a qualified physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER for the purpose of making such affirmation or affidavit consistent with the provisions of such paragraph.
- (h) Hearing. (1) Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall fix the date for a hearing. Such date shall be no later than three days from the date such petition is received by the court, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Adjournments shall be permitted only for good cause shown. In granting adjournments, the court shall consider the need further examination by a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER or the potential need to provide assisted outpatient treatment expeditiously. court shall cause the subject of the petition, any other person receiving notice pursuant to subdivision (f) of this section, the petitioner, the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER whose affirmation or affidavit accompanied the petition, and such other persons as the court may determine to be advised of such date. Upon such date, or upon such other date to which the proceeding may be adjourned, the court shall hear testimony and, if it be deemed advisable and the subject of the petition is available, examine the subject of the petition in or out of court. If subject of the petition does not appear at the hearing, and appropriate attempts to elicit the attendance of the subject have failed, the court may conduct the hearing in the subject's absence. In such case, the court shall set forth the factual basis for conducting the hearing without the presence of the subject of the petition.
- (2) The court shall not order assisted outpatient treatment unless an examining physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, who recommends assisted outpatient treatment and has personally examined the subject of the petition no more than ten days before the filing of the petition, testifies in person at the hearing. Such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall state the facts and clinical determinations which support the allegation that the subject of the petition meets each of the criteria for assisted outpatient treatment.
- (3) If the subject of the petition has refused to be examined by a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the court may request the subject to consent to an examination by a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER appointed by the court. If the subject of the petition does not consent and the court finds reasonable cause to believe that the allegations in the petition are true, the court may order peace officers, acting pursuant their special duties, or police officers who are members of an authorized police department or force, or of a sheriff's department to take the subject of the petition into custody and transport him or her to a hospital for examination by a physician. Retention of the of the petition under such order shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The examination of the subject of the petition may be performed by the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER whose affirmation or affidavit nied the petition pursuant to paragraph three of subdivision (e) of this section, if such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER is privileged by such hospital or otherwise authorized by such hospital to do so. examination is performed by another physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the examining physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER may consult with the physician NURSE PRACTITIONER whose affirmation or affidavit accompanied the OR

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petition as to whether the subject meets the criteria for assisted outpatient treatment.

- (4) A physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who testifies pursuant to paragraph two of this subdivision shall state: (i) the facts which support the allegation that the subject meets each of the criteria for assisted outpatient treatment, (ii) that the treatment is the least restrictive alternative, (iii) the recommended assisted outpatient treatment, and (iv) the rationale for the recommended assisted outpatient treatment. If the recommended assisted outpatient treatment includes medication, such physician's OR NURSE PRACTITIONER'S testimony shall describe the types or classes of medication which should be authorized, shall describe the beneficial and detrimental physical and mental effects of such medication, and shall recommend whether such medication should be self-administered or administered by authorized personnel.
- (5) The subject of the petition shall be afforded an opportunity to present evidence, to call witnesses on his or her behalf, and to cross-examine adverse witnesses.
- Written treatment plan. (1) The court shall not order assisted outpatient treatment unless a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER appointed by the appropriate director, in consultation with such director, develops and provides to the court a proposed written treatment plan. written treatment plan shall include case management services or assertive community treatment team services to provide care coordination. The written treatment plan also shall include all categories of services, as set forth in paragraph one of subdivision (a) of this section, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER recommends that the subject of the petition receive. All service providers shall be notified regarding their inclusion in the written treatment plan. If the written treatment plan includes medication, it shall state whether such medication should self-administered or administered by authorized personnel, and shall specify type and dosage range of medication most likely to provide maximum benefit for the subject. If the written treatment plan includes substance abuse counseling and treatment, such plan may include a provision requiring relevant testing for either alcohol illegal substances provided the physician's OR NURSE PRACTITIONER'S clinical basis for recommending such plan provides sufficient facts court to find (i) that such person has a history of alcohol or substance abuse that is clinically related to the mental illness; and (ii) that such testing is necessary to prevent a relapse or deterioration which would be likely to result in serious harm to the person or others. If a director is the petitioner, the written treatment plan shall be provided to the court no later than the date of the hearing on the petition. If a person other than a director is the petitioner, plan shall be provided to the court no later than the date set by the court pursuant to paragraph three of subdivision (j) of this section.
- (2) The physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER appointed to develop the written treatment plan shall provide the following persons with an opportunity to actively participate in the development of such plan: the subject of the petition; the treating physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, if any; and upon the request of the subject of the petition, an individual significant to the subject including any relative, close friend or individual otherwise concerned with the welfare of the subject. If the subject of the petition has executed a health care proxy, the appointed physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall consider any directions included in such proxy in developing the written treatment plan.

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The court shall not order assisted outpatient treatment unless a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER appearing on behalf of a director testifies to explain the written proposed treatment plan. Such physician OR shall state the categories of assisted outpatient PRACTITIONER treatment recommended, the rationale for each such category, facts which establish that such treatment is the least restrictive alternative, and, the recommended assisted outpatient treatment plan includes medication, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall state the types or classes of medication recommended, the beneficial and detrimental physical and mental effects of such medication, and whether such medication should be self-administered or administered by an authorized professional. If the subject of the petition has executed a health care proxy, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall state the consideration given to any directions included in such proxy in developing the written treatment plan. If a director is the petitioner, testimony pursuant to this paragraph shall be given at the hearing on the petition. person other than a director is the petitioner, such testimony shall be given on the date set by the court pursuant to paragraph three of subdivision (j) of this section.

(k) Petition for additional periods of treatment. Within thirty days prior to the expiration of an order of assisted outpatient treatment, the appropriate director or the current petitioner, if the current petition was filed pursuant to subparagraph (i) or (ii) of paragraph one of subdivision (e) of this section, and the current petitioner retains his or her original status pursuant to the applicable subparagraph, may petition the court to order continued assisted outpatient treatment for a period not to exceed one year from the expiration date of the current order. If the court's disposition of such petition does not occur prior to the expiration date of the current order, the current order shall remain in effect until such disposition. The procedures for obtaining any order pursuant to this subdivision shall be in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing subdivisions of this section; provided that the time restrictions included in paragraph four of subdivision (c) this section shall not be applicable. The notice provisions set forth in paragraph six of subdivision (j) of this section shall be applicable. Any court order requiring periodic blood tests or urinalysis presence of alcohol or illegal drugs shall be subject to review after six months by the physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER who developed the written treatment plan or another physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER designated by the director, and such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall be authorized to terminate such blood tests or urinalysis without further action by the court.

(n) Failure to comply with assisted outpatient treatment. Where in the clinical judgment of a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, (i) the assisted outpatient, has failed or refused to comply with the assisted outpatient treatment, (ii) efforts were made to solicit compliance, and (iii) such assisted outpatient may be in need of involuntary admission to a hospital pursuant to section 9.27 of this article or immediate observation, care and treatment pursuant to section 9.39 or 9.40 of this article, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER may request the director of community services, the director's designee, or any physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER designated by the director of community services pursuant to section 9.37 of this article, to direct the removal of such assisted outpatient to an appropriate hospital for an examination to determine if such person has a mental illness for which hospitalization is necessary pursuant to section 9.27, 9.39 or 9.40 of this article. Furthermore, if

such assisted outpatient refuses to take medications as required by the court order, or he or she refuses to take, or fails a blood test, urina-3 or alcohol or drug test as required by the court order, such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER may consider such refusal or failure 5 when determining whether the assisted outpatient is in need of an exam-6 ination to determine whether he or she has a mental illness for which 7 hospitalization is necessary. Upon the request of such physician OR 8 NURSE PRACTITIONER, the director, the director's designee, or any physi-9 cian OR NURSE PRACTITIONER designated pursuant to section 9.37 of this 10 article, may direct peace officers, acting pursuant to their 11 duties, or police officers who are members of an authorized police department or force or of a sheriff's department to take the assisted 12 outpatient into custody and transport him or her to the hospital operat-13 14 ing the assisted outpatient treatment program or to any hospital author-15 ized by the director of community services to receive such persons. Such 16 law enforcement officials shall carry out such directive. Upon the 17 request of such physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the director, 18 director's designee, or any physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER designated 19 pursuant to section 9.37 of this article, an ambulance service, 20 defined by subdivision two of section three thousand one of the public 21 health law, or an approved mobile crisis outreach team as defined in 22 section 9.58 of this article shall be authorized to take into custody 23 and transport any such person to the hospital operating the assisted 24 outpatient treatment program, or to any other hospital authorized by the 25 director of community services to receive such persons. Any director of 26 community services, or designee, shall be authorized to direct the removal of an assisted outpatient who is present in his or her county to 27 appropriate hospital, in accordance with the provisions of this 28 subdivision, based upon a determination of the appropriate director of 29 30 community services directing the removal of such assisted outpatient pursuant to this subdivision. Such person may be retained for observa-31 32 care and treatment and further examination in the hospital for up 33 to seventy-two hours to permit a physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER to determine whether such person has a mental illness and is in need of 34 35 involuntary care and treatment in a hospital pursuant to the provisions this article. Any continued involuntary retention in such hospital 36 37 beyond the initial seventy-two hour period shall be in accordance with the provisions of this article relating to the involuntary admission and 38 retention of a person. If at any time during the seventy-two hour period 39 40 is determined not to meet the involuntary admission and retention provisions of this article, and does not agree to stay in the 41 42 hospital as a voluntary or informal patient, he or she must be released. 43 Failure to comply with an order of assisted outpatient treatment shall not be grounds for involuntary civil commitment or a finding of contempt 44 45 of court. 46

S 10. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that 1. The amendments to subdivisions (b) and (c) of section 9.40 of the mental hygiene law made by section four of this act shall not affect the

repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith;

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52 53 54 2. The amendments to sections 9.55 and 9.57 of the mental hygiene law made by sections five and seven of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such sections pursuant to section 21 of chapter 723 of the laws of 1989, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of sections six and eight of this act shall take effect;

3. The amendments to section 9.60 of the mental hygiene law made by section nine of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.