

3911

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 20, 2015

Introduced by Sen. NOZZOLIO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the social services law, in relation to the licensing of acupuncturists and the practice of the profession of acupuncture, and establishing acupuncturists as mandatory reporters of suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 8211 of the
2 education law, as added by chapter 772 of the laws of 1990, is amended
3 and a new paragraph (c) is added to read as follows:
4 (a) "Profession of acupuncture" is the treating, by means of mechan-
5 ical, thermal or electrical stimulation effected by the insertion of
6 needles or by the application of heat, pressure or electrical stimu-
7 lation at a point or combination of points on the surface of the body
8 predetermined on the basis of the theory of the physiological interre-
9 lationship of body organs with an associated point or combination of
10 points for diseases, disorders and dysfunctions of the body for the
11 purpose of achieving a therapeutic or prophylactic effect. THE PROFES-
12 SION OF ACUPUNCTURE INCLUDES RECOMMENDATION OF TRADITIONAL REMEDIES AND
13 SUPPLEMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RECOMMENDATION OF DIET,
14 HERBS (LOOSE AND PRE-PACKAGED) AND NATURAL PRODUCTS, AND THEIR PREPARA-
15 TION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRADITIONAL AND MODERN PRACTICES OF EAST ASIAN
16 OR ORIENTAL (CHINESE, KOREAN OR JAPANESE) MEDICAL THEORY. ANY ACUPUNCTU-
17 RIST WHOSE PRACTICE INCLUDES THE RECOMMENDATION OF CUSTOM-MADE REMEDIES
18 OR HERBAL FORMULATIONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT IMPOSED BY
19 THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION EIGHT-A OF SECTION EIGHTY-TWO HUNDRED
20 FOURTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE.
21 (C) NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
22 NOT SUBJECT TO REGULATION IN THIS STATE AS A LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST FROM

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

1 ENGAGING IN THE RECOMMENDATION OF TRADITIONAL REMEDIES AND SUPPLEMENTS
2 AS DEFINED HEREIN.

3 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 8213 of the education law, as added by
4 chapter 772 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

5 (1)(A) There is hereby established within the department a state board
6 for acupuncture. [The] ON AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER THIRTIETH, TWO THOUSAND
7 SIXTEEN, THE board shall consist of not less than eleven members to be
8 appointed by the board of regents on the recommendation of the commis-
9 sioner for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the depart-
10 ment on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct in
11 accordance with section sixty-five hundred eight of this [chapter]
12 TITLE, four of whom shall be licensed acupuncturists, four of whom shall
13 be licensed physicians certified to use acupuncture and three of whom
14 shall be public members representing the consumer and community. [Of the
15 acupuncturists first appointed to the board, one may be a registered
16 specialist's assistant-acupuncture provided that the term of such regis-
17 tered specialist's assistant-acupuncture shall not be more than four
18 years.] Of the members first appointed, three shall be appointed for a
19 one year term, three shall be appointed for a two year term and three
20 shall be appointed for a three year term, and two shall be appointed for
21 a four year term. Thereafter all members shall serve for five year
22 terms. In the event that more than eleven members are appointed, a
23 majority of the additional members shall be licensed acupuncturists. The
24 members of the board shall select one of themselves as chairman to serve
25 for a one year term.

26 (B) ON AND AFTER OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN, THE BOARD SHALL
27 CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN TWELVE MEMBERS APPOINTED AS SPECIFIED IN PARA-
28 GRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, EXCEPT THAT AT LEAST SIX OF SUCH MEMBERS
29 SHALL BE LICENSED ACUPUNCTURISTS, THREE OF SUCH MEMBERS SHALL BE
30 LICENSED PHYSICIANS CERTIFIED TO USE ACUPUNCTURE AND THREE OF WHOM SHALL
31 BE PUBLIC MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY. NO MEMBER WHO
32 IS A LICENSED PHYSICIAN CERTIFIED TO USE ACUPUNCTURE AND WHO IS SERVING
33 ON THE BOARD ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE REQUIRED
34 TO VACATE HIS OR HER POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD AS A RESULT OF
35 THE REDUCTION IN SUCH PHYSICIAN MEMBERS FROM FOUR TO THREE AS SPECIFIED
36 IN THIS PARAGRAPH, BUT SUCH CHANGE IN COMPOSITION SHALL BE MADE UPON THE
37 EXPIRATION OF TERMS OF OFFICE, OR VACANCIES IN OFFICE, OCCURRING ON AND
38 AFTER SUCH DATE.

39 S 3. Subdivision 8 of section 8214 of the education law, as added by
40 chapter 772 of the laws of 1990, is amended and two new subdivisions 8-a
41 and 9 are added to read as follows:

42 (8) Registration: if a license is granted, register triennially with
43 the department, including present home and business address and such
44 other pertinent information as the department requires[.];

45 (8-A) SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR RECOMMENDATION OF CUSTOM-MADE REMEDIES
46 OR HERBAL FORMULATIONS: ON AND AFTER OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND
47 SIXTEEN, AN APPLICANT WHOSE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN CONNECTION WITH THE
48 PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE SHALL INCLUDE THE RECOMMENDATION OF CUSTOM-MADE
49 REMEDIES OR HERBAL FORMULATIONS MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSFUL
50 PASSAGE OF THE HERBAL COMPETENCY EXAM OF A NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ORGAN-
51 IZATION IN THE FIELD OF ACUPUNCTURE RECOGNIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE
52 COMMISSIONER; AND

53 (9) CERTIFICATES OF HERBAL PRACTICE: 1. NO ACUPUNCTURIST SHALL
54 DISPENSE OR RECOMMEND CUSTOM-MADE REMEDIES OR CUSTOM-MADE HERBAL FORMU-
55 LATIONS WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE OF HERBAL PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE DEPART-
56 MENT PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER.

1 2. THE FEE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF HERBAL PRACTICE SHALL BE DETERMINED BY
2 THE COMMISSIONER AND SHALL BE PAID ON A TRIENNIAL BASIS. A CERTIFICATE
3 MAY BE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A LICENSE TO PRACTICE
4 ACUPUNCTURE.

5 3. THE CERTIFICATE OF HERBAL PRACTICE UNDER THIS SECTION IS AVAILABLE
6 ONLY TO PERSONS WHO ARE LICENSED TO PRACTICE ACUPUNCTURE IN ACCORDANCE
7 WITH THIS ARTICLE.

8 S 4. The education law is amended by adding a new section 8217 to read
9 as follows:

10 S 8217. MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION. 1. (A) EACH LICENSED ACUPUNC-
11 TURIST REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS CHAPTER TO
12 REGISTER TRIENNIALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE SHALL
13 COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRE-
14 MENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION EXCEPT AS SET FORTH
15 IN PARAGRAPHS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SUBDIVISION. ACUPUNCTURISTS WHO DO NOT
16 SATISFY THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT PRAC-
17 TICE UNTIL THEY HAVE MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPT THAT AN ACUPUNCTURIST
18 MAY PRACTICE WITHOUT HAVING MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS IF HE OR SHE IS ISSUED
19 A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE AS SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVISION THREE
20 OF THIS SECTION.

21 (B) ACUPUNCTURISTS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATORY CONTINUING
22 EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD DURING WHICH
23 THEY ARE FIRST LICENSED. IN ACCORD WITH THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION,
24 ADJUSTMENT TO THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT MAY BE
25 GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR REASONS OF HEALTH CERTIFIED BY AN APPRO-
26 PRIATE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, FOR EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE ARMED
27 FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR FOR OTHER GOOD CAUSE ACCEPTABLE TO THE
28 DEPARTMENT WHICH MAY PREVENT COMPLIANCE.

29 (C) A LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST NOT ENGAGED IN PRACTICE AS DETERMINED BY
30 THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION
31 REQUIREMENT UPON THE FILING OF A STATEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT DECLARING
32 SUCH STATUS. ANY LICENSEE WHO RETURNS TO THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE
33 DURING THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT
34 PRIOR TO REENTERING THE PROFESSION AND SHALL MEET SUCH MANDATORY EDUCA-
35 TION REQUIREMENTS AS SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMIS-
36 SIONER.

37 2. DURING EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD AN APPLICANT FOR REGIS-
38 TRATION SHALL COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF THIRTY-SIX HOURS OF ACCEPTABLE
39 FORMAL CONTINUING EDUCATION, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVISION FOUR OF THIS
40 SECTION, PROVIDED THAT NO MORE THAN EIGHTEEN HOURS OF SUCH CONTINUING
41 EDUCATION SHALL CONSIST OF SELF-STUDY COURSES. ANY ACUPUNCTURIST WHOSE
42 FIRST REGISTRATION DATE FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION
43 OCCURS LESS THAN THREE YEARS FROM SUCH EFFECTIVE DATE, BUT ON OR AFTER
44 OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN, SHALL COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION
45 HOURS ON A PRORATED BASIS AT THE RATE OF ONE HOUR PER MONTH FOR THE
46 PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN UP TO THE FIRST
47 REGISTRATION DATE THEREAFTER, BUT NO ACUPUNCTURIST SHALL IN ANY EVENT BE
48 REQUIRED TO COMPLETE LESS THAN SIX HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. A
49 LICENSEE WHO HAS NOT SATISFIED THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION
50 REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE ISSUED A TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE BY
51 THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL NOT PRACTICE UNLESS AND UNTIL A CONDITIONAL
52 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBDIVISION THREE
53 OF THIS SECTION. CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS TAKEN DURING ONE TRIENNIUM
54 MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO A SUBSEQUENT TRIENNIUM. THE MANDATORY CONTIN-
55 UING EDUCATION FEE SHALL BE THIRTY DOLLARS, SHALL BE PAYABLE ON OR
56 BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD, AND SHALL BE

PAID IN ADDITION TO THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION SIXTY-SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR OF THIS TITLE.

3. THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ISSUE A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION TO A LICENSEE WHO FAILS TO MEET THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION BUT WHO AGREES TO MAKE UP ANY DEFICIENCIES AND COMPLETE ANY ADDITIONAL EDUCATION WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE. THE FEE FOR SUCH A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL BE THE SAME AS, AND IN ADDITION TO, THE FEE FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION. THE DURATION OF SUCH CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE YEAR. ANY LICENSEE WHO IS NOTIFIED OF THE DENIAL OF REGISTRATION FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE, SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT, OF REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WHO PRACTICES ACUPUNCTURE WITHOUT SUCH REGISTRATION, MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

4. (A) AS USED IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, "ACCEPTABLE FORMAL CONTINUING EDUCATION" SHALL MEAN FORMAL COURSES OF LEARNING WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN ACUPUNCTURE AND WHICH MEET THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER. THE DEPARTMENT MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION AND AS NEEDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC, REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES IN SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. TO FULFILL THIS MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT, COURSES SHALL BE TAKEN FROM A SPONSOR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OR OTHERWISE QUALIFY PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(B) ANY ACUPUNCTURIST WHO (I) IS A PROFESSOR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OR INSTRUCTOR AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN THIS STATE OR (II) IS SPONSORED BY AN APPROVED INSTITUTION OR ASSOCIATION AND WHO SERVES AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN A COURSE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION WHICH IS APPROVED AS SPECIFIED IN THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER, MAY RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR COURSES IN WHICH HE OR SHE SERVES AS THE INSTRUCTOR. FOR EVERY TWELVE HOURS OF IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION, SUCH ACUPUNCTURIST SHALL RECEIVE ONE HOUR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHTEEN HOURS, FOR ANY TRIENNIAL PERIOD. EVIDENCE OF SUCH INSTRUCTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED, AND CREDIT APPROVED, AS SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

5. ACUPUNCTURISTS SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETION OF ACCEPTABLE FORMAL CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SHALL PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION UPON THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AN ACT OF MISCONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

S 5. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 6507 of the education law, as amended by chapter 554 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

a. Establish standards for preprofessional and professional education, experience and licensing examinations as required to implement the article for each profession. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall establish standards requiring that all persons applying, on or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one, initially, or for the renewal of, a license, registration or limited permit to be a physician, chiropractor, dentist, registered nurse, podiatrist, ACUPUNCTURIST, optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed master social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed creative arts therapist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counselor, licensed psychoanalyst, dental hygienist, licensed behavior

1 analyst, or certified behavior analyst assistant shall, in addition to
2 all the other licensure, certification or permit requirements, have
3 completed two hours of coursework or training regarding the identifica-
4 tion and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. The coursework or
5 training shall be obtained from an institution or provider which has
6 been approved by the department to provide such coursework or training.
7 The coursework or training shall include information regarding the phys-
8 ical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the
9 statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four hundred thir-
10 teen through four hundred twenty of the social services law, including
11 but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what other
12 actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal
13 protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to
14 report. Such coursework or training may also include information regard-
15 ing the physical and behavioral indicators of the abuse of individuals
16 with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and volun-
17 tary reporting of abused or neglected adults to the office [of mental
18 retardation and] FOR PEOPLE WITH developmental disabilities or the local
19 adult protective services unit. Each applicant shall provide the depart-
20 ment with documentation showing that he or she has completed the
21 required training. The department shall provide an exemption from the
22 child abuse and maltreatment training requirements to any applicant who
23 requests such an exemption and who shows, to the department's satisfac-
24 tion, that there would be no need because of the nature of his or her
25 practice for him or her to complete such training;

26 S 6. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social
27 services law, as amended by chapter 126 of the laws of 2014, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 (a) The following persons and officials are required to report or
30 cause a report to be made in accordance with this title when they have
31 reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their
32 professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child, or
33 when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or
34 maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person
35 legally responsible for such child comes before them in their profes-
36 sional or official capacity and states from personal knowledge facts,
37 conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an
38 abused or maltreated child: any physician; registered physician assist-
39 ant; surgeon; medical examiner; coroner; dentist; dental hygienist;
40 osteopath; optometrist; chiropractor; podiatrist; ACUPUNCTURIST; resi-
41 dent; intern; psychologist; registered nurse; social worker; emergency
42 medical technician; licensed creative arts therapist; licensed marriage
43 and family therapist; licensed mental health counselor; licensed psycho-
44 analyst; licensed behavior analyst; certified behavior analyst assist-
45 ant; hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or
46 treatment of persons; a Christian Science practitioner; school official,
47 which includes but is not limited to school teacher, school guidance
48 counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse,
49 school administrator or other school personnel required to hold a teach-
50 ing or administrative license or certificate; social services worker;
51 director of a children's overnight camp, summer day camp or traveling
52 summer day camp, as such camps are defined in section thirteen hundred
53 ninety-two of the public health law; day care center worker; school-age
54 child care worker; provider of family or group family day care; employee
55 or volunteer in a residential care facility for children that is
56 licensed, certified or operated by the office of children and family

1 services; or any other child care or foster care worker; mental health
2 professional; substance abuse counselor; alcoholism counselor; all
3 persons credentialed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse
4 services; peace officer; police officer; district attorney or assistant
5 district attorney; investigator employed in the office of a district
6 attorney; or other law enforcement official.

7 S 7. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 413 of the social
8 services law, as separately amended by chapters 126 and 205 of the laws
9 of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) The following persons and officials are required to report or
11 cause a report to be made in accordance with this title when they have
12 reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their
13 professional or official capacity is an abused or maltreated child, or
14 when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or
15 maltreated child where the parent, guardian, custodian or other person
16 legally responsible for such child comes before them in their profes-
17 sional or official capacity and states from personal knowledge facts,
18 conditions or circumstances which, if correct, would render the child an
19 abused or maltreated child: any physician; registered physician assist-
20 ant; surgeon; medical examiner; coroner; dentist; dental hygienist;
21 osteopath; optometrist; chiropractor; podiatrist; ACUPUNCTURIST; resi-
22 dent; intern; psychologist; registered nurse; social worker; emergency
23 medical technician; licensed creative arts therapist; licensed marriage
24 and family therapist; licensed mental health counselor; licensed psycho-
25 analyst; licensed behavior analyst; certified behavior analyst assist-
26 ant; hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care or
27 treatment of persons; a Christian Science practitioner; school official,
28 which includes but is not limited to school teacher, school guidance
29 counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse,
30 school administrator or other school personnel required to hold a teach-
31 ing or administrative license or certificate; full or part-time compen-
32 sated school employee required to hold a temporary coaching license or
33 professional coaching certificate; social services worker; director of a
34 children's overnight camp, summer day camp or traveling summer day camp,
35 as such camps are defined in section thirteen hundred ninety-two of the
36 public health law; day care center worker; school-age child care worker;
37 provider of family or group family day care; employee or volunteer in a
38 residential care facility for children that is licensed, certified or
39 operated by the office of children and family services; or any other
40 child care or foster care worker; mental health professional; substance
41 abuse counselor; alcoholism counselor; all persons credentialed by the
42 office of alcoholism and substance abuse services; peace officer; police
43 officer; district attorney or assistant district attorney; investigator
44 employed in the office of a district attorney; or other law enforcement
45 official.

46 S 8. This act shall take effect October 1, 2016; provided, however,
47 that if chapter 205 of the laws of 2014 is not in effect on such effec-
48 tive date, then the amendments to paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of
49 section 413 of the social services law made by section seven of this act
50 shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as chapter 205
51 of the laws of 2014, as amended, takes effect; provided, however, that
52 effective immediately, the state education department is authorized to
53 take such steps in advance of such effective date, including the addi-
54 tion, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation as may be neces-
55 sary, to ensure the timely implementation of the provisions of this act
56 on such effective date.