

STATE OF NEW YORK

8534

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the safer
consumption services act

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article
2 33-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 33-B

SAFER CONSUMPTION SERVICES ACT

Section 3398. Short title.

3398-a. Definitions.

3398-b. Program approval.

3398-c. Designation.

3398-d. Reporting.

3398-e. Immunity provided.

3398-f. Limitations on immunity.

§ 3398. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
"safer consumption services act".

§ 3398-a. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Program" means a safer consumption services program established
pursuant to this article.

2. "Entity" means any community based organization that provides
educational, health, harm reduction, housing, or social services and any
hospital, medical clinic or office, health center, nursing care facili-
ty, mental health facility, or other similar entity that provides
medical care.

3. "Participant" means an individual who seeks to utilize, utilizes,
or has used a program established pursuant to this article.

§ 3398-b. Program approval. 1. Notwithstanding any other statute, law
or rule to the contrary, the department or a local health district may

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

LBD13094-02-7

1 approve an entity to operate a program in one or more jurisdictions upon
2 satisfaction of the requirements set forth in subdivision two of this
3 section. The department and local health jurisdictions shall establish
4 standards for program approval and training and may promulgate such
5 rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this section.

6 (a) The department or a local health district shall approve or deny an
7 application under this section within forty-five days of the day of
8 receipt of the application and provide a written explanation of such
9 determination.

10 (b) An entity may make an application under this section at any time,
11 regardless of previous applications.

12 2. The department or local health district may approve an entity to
13 operate a program pursuant to this article, upon submission of an appli-
14 cation that demonstrates the entity will, at a minimum:

15 (a) provide a hygienic space where participants may consume their
16 preobtained drugs that is separate from the space in which the provider
17 performs other business, if any;

18 (b) provide adequate staffing by healthcare professionals or other
19 trained staff;

20 (c) provide sterile injection supplies, collect used hypodermic
21 needles and syringes, and provide secure hypodermic needle and syringe
22 disposal services;

23 (d) provide education on safe consumption practices, proper disposal
24 of hypodermic needles and syringes, and overdose prevention, including
25 written information in, at a minimum, the four most commonly spoken
26 languages in the state as determined by the department or local health
27 district;

28 (e) administer first aid, if needed, and monitor participants for
29 potential overdose;

30 (f) provide referrals to addiction treatment, medical, social welfare,
31 and employment and training services;

32 (g) educate participants on the risks of contracting HIV and viral
33 hepatitis and provide sexual health resources and supplies, including,
34 but not limited to, male and female condoms;

35 (h) provide access to naloxone or referrals to obtain naloxone for
36 participants;

37 (i) provide reasonable and adequate security of the program site and
38 equipment;

39 (j) ensure confidentiality of program participants by using an anony-
40 mous unique identifier;

41 (k) train staff members to deliver services offered by the program or
42 attend trainings provided by the department or local health jurisdiction
43 if required; and

44 (l) establish operating procedures for the program as well as eligi-
45 bility criteria for program participants if not predetermined by the
46 department or local health district.

47 § 3398-c. Designation. A department approved program shall also be
48 designated as an authorized syringe exchange program in accordance with
49 the regulations of the department as set forth in 10 NYCRR 80.135 and as
50 a registered provider of an opioid overdose prevention program in
51 accordance with the regulations of the department as set forth in 10
52 NYCRR 80.138. A safer consumption program approved by a local health
53 district shall apply to be an authorized syringe exchange program and
54 registered provider of an opioid overdose prevention program.

55 § 3398-d. Reporting. An entity operating a safer consumption program
56 under this section shall provide an annual report to the department or

1 local health district that approved it for operation at a date set by
2 the department or local health district that shall include:

3 1. the number of program participants;

4 2. aggregate information regarding the characteristics of program
5 participants;

6 3. the number of hypodermic needles and syringes distributed for use
7 on-site;

8 4. the number of overdoses experienced and the number of overdoses
9 reversed on-site; and

10 5. the number of individuals directly and formally referred to other
11 services and the type of service.

12 § 3398-e. Immunity provided. Notwithstanding any other statute, law or
13 rule to the contrary, the following persons shall not be arrested,
14 charged, or prosecuted for any criminal offense or be subject to any
15 civil or administrative penalty, including seizure or forfeiture of
16 assets or real property or disciplinary action by a professional licens-
17 ing board, or be denied any right or privilege, solely for participation
18 or involvement in a safer consumption program approved by the department
19 or local health districts pursuant to this article:

20 1. a participant;

21 2. a staff member or administrator of a program, including a health-
22 care professional, manager, employee, or volunteer; or

23 3. a property owner who owns real property at which a program is
24 located and operates.

25 § 3398-f. Limitations on immunity. Notwithstanding the provisions of
26 section thirty-three hundred ninety-eight-e of this article, a property
27 owner, staff member, manager, employee, volunteer, or individual utiliz-
28 ing a safer consumption services program is not immune from criminal
29 prosecution for any activities not permitted or approved pursuant to
30 this article.

31 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.