

STATE OF NEW YORK

3460

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2019

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the mental hygiene law, in relation to violations of safety conditions in adult care facilities

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 460-d of the
2 social services law, as amended by chapter 733 of the laws of 1994, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b) No operating certificate shall be revoked, suspended or limited
5 without a hearing held in accordance with procedures established by
6 department regulations, which procedures shall require that notice of
7 the time and place of the hearing, and notice of the charges, shall be
8 served in person or by certified mail addressed to the facility at least
9 thirty days prior to the date of the hearing. A written answer to the
10 charges may be filed with the department not less than ten business days
11 prior to the date of the hearing. An operating certificate may, never-
12 theless, be suspended or limited without a hearing for a period not in
13 excess of sixty days, upon written notice to the facility following a
14 finding by the department that the public health, or an individual's
15 health, safety or welfare, are in imminent danger; provided, however,
16 that if the department makes reasonable efforts to commence a hearing
17 within such sixty day period and to complete such hearing within a
18 reasonable period of time, the hearing officer may authorize the depart-
19 ment to extend the period of suspension or limitation for an appropriate
20 period of time, but in no event beyond the date when the hearing is
21 completed and available administrative appeals are exhausted.

22 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
23 added by chapter 669 of the laws of 1977, paragraph (a) as amended by
24 chapter 719 of the laws of 1989, paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 524

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

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1 of the laws of 1984, subparagraph 2 of paragraph (b) as amended by chap-
2 ter 733 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

3 7. (a) The department shall adopt regulations establishing civil
4 penalties of up to [~~one~~] five thousand dollars per day per violation to
5 be assessed against all adult care facilities except facilities operated
6 by a social services district for violations of (i) regulations of the
7 department pertaining to the care of residents in such facilities, (ii)
8 paragraph (a) of subdivision three of section four hundred sixty-one-a
9 of this [~~chapter~~] article, or (iii) an order issued pursuant to subdivi-
10 sion eight of this section. The regulations shall specify the violations
11 subject to penalty and the amount of the penalty to be assessed in
12 connection with each such violation and shall specify that only civil
13 penalties of up to [~~one~~] five thousand dollars per day per violation
14 shall be assessed pursuant to this paragraph against an adult care
15 facility found responsible for an act of retaliation or reprisal against
16 any resident, employee, or other person for having filed a complaint
17 with or having provided information to any long term care [~~patient~~]
18 ombudsman functioning in accordance with section [~~five hundred forty-~~
19 ~~four or five hundred forty-five~~] two hundred eighteen of the [~~executive~~]
20 elder law.

21 (b) [~~(1)~~] In addition to any other civil or criminal penalty provided
22 by law, the department shall have the power to assess civil penalties in
23 accordance with its regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of
24 this subdivision, after a hearing conducted in accordance with the
25 procedures established by regulations of the department. Such procedures
26 shall require that notice of the time and place of the hearing, together
27 with a statement of charges of violations, shall be served in person or
28 by certified mail addressed to the facility at least thirty days prior
29 to the date of the hearing. The statement of charges of violations shall
30 set forth the existence of the violations, the amount of penalty for
31 which it may become liable and the steps which must be taken to rectify
32 the violation and, where applicable, a statement that the department
33 contends that a penalty may be imposed under this paragraph regardless
34 of rectification. An answer to the charges of violations, in writing,
35 shall be filed with the department, not less than ten days prior to the
36 date of hearing. The answer shall notify the department of the facili-
37 ty's position with respect to each of the charges and shall include all
38 matters which if not disclosed in the answer would be likely to take the
39 department by surprise. The commissioner, or a member of his staff who
40 is designated and authorized by him to hold such hearing, may in his
41 discretion allow the facility to prove any matter not included in the
42 answer.

43 (c) (1) Where the facility satisfactorily demonstrates that it either
44 had rectified the violations within thirty days of receiving written
45 notification of the results of the inspection pursuant to section four
46 hundred sixty-one-a of this [~~chapter~~] article, or had submitted within
47 [~~thirty~~] fourteen days an acceptable plan for rectification and was
48 rectifying the violations in accordance with the steps and within the
49 additional periods of time as accepted by the department in such plan,
50 [~~no~~] the department may determine that the penalty under this section
51 shall be reduced from what otherwise would be imposed, or waived, except
52 as provided in subparagraph two of this paragraph, and only after it
53 finds particular circumstances justifying a reduction or waiver of the
54 fine, considering:

55 (i) the cause of the violation being an isolated incident and not part
56 of a pattern or practice;

1 (ii) the number of residents affected by the violation;
2 (iii) the risk of harm or endangerment created by the violation;
3 (iv) the facility's history of citations and violations;
4 (v) the promptness of rectification, if delay was occasioned by the
5 department; and
6 (vi) the specific circumstances of the violations.

7 ~~(2) [Rectification shall not preclude the assessment of a penalty if~~
8 ~~the department establishes at a hearing that a particular violation,~~
9 ~~although corrected, endangered or resulted in harm to any resident as~~
10 ~~the result of:]~~

11 ~~(i)]~~ No fine shall be reduced or waived for a violation that:

12 (i) endangered any resident. Endangerment is defined as:

13 (A) the total or substantial failure of the facility's fire detection
14 or prevention systems, or emergency evacuation procedures prescribed by
15 department safety standard regulations;

16 ~~[(ii)]~~ (B) the retention of any resident who has been evaluated by the
17 resident's physician as being medically or mentally unsuited for care in
18 the facility or as requiring placement in a hospital or residential
19 health care facility and for whom the operator is not making persistent
20 efforts to secure appropriate placement;

21 ~~[(iii)]~~ (C) the failure in systemic practices and procedures;

22 ~~[(iv)]~~ (D) the failure of the operator to take actions as required by
23 department regulations in the event of a resident's illness or accident;
24 ~~[(v)]~~ (E) the failure of the operator to provide at all times super-
25 vision of residents by numbers of staff at least equivalent to the night
26 staffing requirement set forth in department regulations; or

27 ~~[(vi)]~~ (F) unreasonable threats of retaliation or taking reprisals,
28 including but not limited to unreasonable threats of eviction or hospi-
29 talization against any resident, employee or other person who makes a
30 complaint concerning the operation of an adult care facility, partic-
31 ipates in the investigation of a complaint or is the subject of an
32 action identified in a complaint[-

33 ~~The department shall specify in its regulations those regulations to~~
34 ~~which this subparagraph two shall apply.~~

35 ~~(3) In assessing penalties pursuant to this paragraph, the department~~
36 ~~shall consider promptness of rectification, delay occasioned by the~~
37 ~~department, and the specific circumstances of the violations as mitigat-~~
38 ~~ing factors.~~

39 ~~(c)]:~~

40 (ii) resulted in harm to any resident, including but not limited to:

41 (A) physical injury;

42 (B) loss or denial of access to money or other personal property; or

43 (C) being the object of words or conduct that constitute bullying,
44 harassment, humiliation, infantilization, intimidation, taunt, ridicule,
45 a threat, or derogatory comment; or

46 (iii) is a repeat violation. Repeat violation is defined as a
47 violation for which the facility was cited by the department at any time
48 in the previous twelve months.

49 (d) Upon the request of the department, the attorney general may
50 commence an action in any court of competent jurisdiction against any
51 facility subject to the provisions of this section, and against any
52 person or corporation operating such facility, for the recovery of any
53 penalty assessed by the department in accordance with the provisions of
54 this subdivision.

55 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Any such penalty assessed by the department may be released
56 or compromised by the department, subject to and consistent with para-

1 graph (c) of this subdivision, before the matter has been referred to
2 the attorney general, and where such matter has been referred to the
3 attorney general, any such penalty may be released or compromised and
4 any action commenced to recover the same may be settled and discontinued
5 by the attorney general, after considering paragraph (c) of this subdivi-
6 vision and with the consent of the department.

7 § 3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision 9 of section 460-d of the
8 social services law, paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 558 of the laws
9 of 1999 and paragraph (b) as added by chapter 848 of the laws of 1992,
10 are amended to read as follows:

11 (a) The department shall have authority to impose a civil penalty [~~not~~
12 ~~exceeding one thousand dollars per day~~] consistent with section twelve
13 of the public health law against, and to issue an order requiring the
14 closing of, after notice and opportunity to be heard, any facility which
15 does not possess a valid operating certificate issued by the department
16 and is an adult care facility subject to the provisions of this article
17 and the regulations of the department. A hearing shall be conducted in
18 accordance with procedures established by department regulations which
19 procedures shall require that notice of the determination that the
20 facility is an adult care facility and the reasons for such determi-
21 nation and notice of the time and place of the hearing be served in
22 person on the operator, owner or prime lessor, if any, or by certified
23 mail, return receipt requested, addressed to such person and received at
24 least twenty days prior to the date of the hearing. If such operator,
25 owner or prime lessor, if any, is not known to the department, then
26 service may be made by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place
27 within the facility or by sending a copy thereof by certified mail,
28 return receipt requested, addressed to the facility. A written answer to
29 the notice of violation may be filed with the department not less than
30 five days prior to the date of the hearing. Demonstration by the facil-
31 ity that it possessed an operating certificate issued pursuant to this
32 article, article twenty-eight of the public health law or article
33 sixteen, [~~twenty-three,~~] thirty-one or thirty-two of the mental hygiene
34 law at the time the hearing was commenced shall constitute a complete
35 defense to any charges made pursuant to this subdivision.

36 (b) [~~The penalty authorized by this section shall begin to run thirty~~
37 ~~days after the department provides the operator, in writing, with a~~
38 ~~summary of the inspection of the facility by which the department deter-~~
39 ~~mined that he or she is operating an uncertified adult care facility.~~]
40 The submission of an application by the operator for an operating
41 certificate for the facility shall not act as a bar to the imposition of
42 a penalty against the operator of an unlicensed adult care facility.

43 § 4. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 9 of section 460-d of the social
44 services law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (iv) to read as
45 follows:

46 (iv) If the department of health determines, based on a complaint or
47 other facts known to the department, that there is reason to believe
48 that an individual or entity is operating an adult home, enriched hous-
49 ing program, or residence for adults which does not possess a valid
50 operating certificate issued by the department, and that one or more
51 conditions or activities at such facility constitute or are likely to
52 give rise to an immediate danger to the health of the residents, and
53 awaiting a court order pursuant to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph
54 would be seriously detrimental to the health of such residents, the
55 department of health may, notwithstanding an objection by the operator,
56 administrator or other person in charge, inspect the entire premises,

1 which shall include access to all dwellings on the said property which
2 house tenants/occupants as well as access to such tenants/occupants, for
3 the purpose of ascertaining whether such danger exists or is likely to
4 arise on an immediate basis. The department of health may request the
5 assistance of local law enforcement for purposes of carrying out such
6 inspection and may take any appropriate action if it determines that
7 such danger exists or is likely to arise, including issuing a written
8 notice directing the operator, administrator or other person in charge
9 of such facility to cease or correct the condition or activity at issue.
10 As promptly as possible thereafter, within a period not to exceed
11 fifteen days, the commissioner shall provide the operator an opportunity
12 to be heard and to present any proof that such condition or activity
13 does not constitute a danger to the health of the residents of such
14 facility. The attorney general, upon request of the department of
15 health, shall be authorized to apply to the supreme court in the county
16 in which the facility is located for an order for any appropriate addi-
17 tional relief.

18 § 5. Subdivision 11 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
19 amended by section 154 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the laws
20 of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

21 11. On or before issuance by the department to an adult care facility
22 operator of official written notice of: the proposed revocation, suspen-
23 sion or denial of the operator's operating certificate; the limitation
24 of the operating certificate with respect to new admissions; the issu-
25 ance of a department order or commissioner's order; the seeking of equi-
26 table relief pursuant to this section; the proposed assessment of civil
27 penalties for violations of the provisions of [~~subparagraph two of~~
28 paragraph ~~(b)~~] (c) of subdivision seven of this section or placement on
29 the "do not refer list" pursuant to subdivision fifteen of this section,
30 written notice also shall be given to the appropriate office of the
31 department of mental hygiene, department of corrections and community
32 supervision and local social services districts, and provided further
33 that the department of health shall notify hospitals, residential health
34 care facilities and adult care facilities in the locality in which such
35 facility is located that such notice has been issued. Upon resolution of
36 such enforcement action the department shall notify the appropriate
37 office of the department of mental hygiene, department of corrections
38 and community supervision, local social services districts [~~and~~], hospi-
39 tals, residential health care facilities and adult care facilities.

40 § 6. Subdivision 12 of section 460-d of the social services law, as
41 amended by section 42 of part B of chapter 58 of the laws of 2004, is
42 amended to read as follows:

43 12. [~~Social~~] Hospitals, residential health care facilities, adult care
44 facilities, social services districts and other local government enti-
45 ties established pursuant to this chapter shall be prohibited from
46 making referrals for admissions to adult care facilities that have
47 received official written notice regarding: the proposed revocation,
48 suspension or denial of the operator's operating certificate; the limi-
49 tation of the operating certificate with respect to new admissions; the
50 issuance of department order or commissioner's orders; the seeking of
51 equitable relief pursuant to this section; the proposed assessment of
52 civil penalties for violations of the provisions of [~~subparagraph two~~
53 ~~of~~] paragraph ~~(b)~~] (c) of subdivision seven of this section; or the
54 facility's placement on the "do not refer list" pursuant to subdivision
55 fifteen of this section.

§ 7. Section 460-d of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 18 to read as follows:

18. When the department of health issues official written notice to an operator of a proposed action specified in subdivision eleven of this section, and the department determines that there is a condition which constitutes an imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of any resident, the department may prohibit that operator from admitting any new resident to the facility until the department determines that there is no longer an imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of any resident.

§ 8. Section 461-c of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

10. The operator of an adult home or an enriched housing program shall provide to prospective residents who inquire about admission, and shall post on its website, a copy of the facility's approved admission/residency agreement, including the rates charged to residents.

§ 9. The closing paragraph of subdivision 3 of section 461-d of the social services law, as added by chapter 601 of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as follows:

Waiver of any provision [~~contained within~~] of this subdivision by a resident of an adult care facility or by the resident's legal representative or resident representative, with respect to a resident of an adult home, residence for adults or enriched housing program, shall be void.

§ 10. Section 461-e of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3-a to read as follows:

3-a. Every adult home and enriched housing program shall:

(a) Post in a prominent position in the facility so as to be accessible to all residents and to the general public, a summary of any report of inspection based on a complaint issued by the department of health to the facility within the previous year.

(b) Provide to any resident and each applicant for admission an opportunity to review any report of inspection based on a complaint issued by the department of health to the facility within the previous year.

§ 11. Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subdivision 2 of section 461-a of the social services law, paragraphs (a) and (c) as amended by chapter 735 of the laws of 1994 and paragraph (b) as amended by chapter 601 of the laws of 1981, are amended to read as follows:

(a) With respect to adult care facilities the department shall conduct a minimum of one unannounced inspection of each such facility to determine the adequacy of care being rendered, pursuant to the following:

(1) Such facilities [~~receiving the department's highest rating~~] determined by the department to be in compliance or substantial compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, based on the facility's most recent inspection, shall be inspected at least once every eighteen months on an unannounced basis.

(2) All other such facilities shall be inspected on an unannounced basis no less than annually. The commissioner may provide for more frequent inspections of any such facilities. Such inspection shall not be required with respect to any facility for which the commissioner has delegated responsibility for inspection and supervision to a social services official pursuant to section four hundred sixty-c of this [~~chapter~~] article. Any employee of the department or a social services district who gives or causes to be given advance notice of such unannounced inspections to any unauthorized persons shall, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, be suspended by the department or the

1 social services district from all duties without pay for at least five
2 days or for such greater period of time as the department or social
3 services district shall determine. Any such suspension shall be made by
4 the department or social services district in accordance with all other
5 applicable provisions of law.

6 (b) ~~[The department or a social services district, where appropriate,~~
7 ~~shall each year conduct a minimum of one full inspection of each adult~~
8 ~~care facility. Such inspection]~~ An inspection of an adult care facility
9 under this section shall include, but shall not be limited to, examina-
10 tion of the medical, dietary and social services records of the facility
11 as well as the minimum standards of construction, life safety standards,
12 quality and adequacy of care, rights of residents, payments and all
13 other areas of operation. The purpose of any inspection shall be to
14 determine compliance with requirements of applicable provisions of law
15 and regulations of the department.

16 (c) (i) An inspection report shall be made of each inspection which
17 shall clearly identify and indicate in detail each area of operation,
18 including, but not limited to, the premises, equipment, personnel, resi-
19 dent care and services, and whether ~~each~~ any such area of operation or
20 any of its component parts is ~~or is~~ not in compliance with the regu-
21 lations of the department and all other applicable requirements. It also
22 shall identify those areas of operation or any of its component parts
23 found not in compliance as a result of failure in systemic practices and
24 procedures. The operator shall be notified of the results of the
25 inspection in a manner to be determined by regulations of the department
26 and shall submit a written plan of correction to the department within
27 thirty calendar days from the date the inspection report is received.
28 The department shall notify the operator of the acceptability of the
29 plan of correction within thirty calendar days of the department's
30 receipt of such plan. Such notification ~~shall~~ may contain directions
31 as may be appropriate as to the manner and time in which compliance with
32 applicable requirements of law or regulations of the department shall be
33 effected.

34 (ii) The department shall also require the operator of an adult home,
35 enriched housing program or residence for adults to develop, biannually
36 update and implement plans for quality assurance activities for each
37 area of operation. Quality assurance activities include but are not
38 limited to, development and maintenance of performance standards, meas-
39 urement of adherence to such standards and to applicable state and local
40 laws and regulations, identification of performance failures, design,
41 and implementation of corrective action.

42 § 12. Subparagraphs (I) and (II) of paragraph 2 of subdivision (i) of
43 section 29.15 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 168 of
44 the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

45 (I) A patient about to be discharged or conditionally released from a
46 department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with
47 developmental disabilities or from an inpatient facility operated or
48 licensed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services or the
49 office of mental health to an adult home, enriched housing program or
50 residence for adults, as defined in section two of the social services
51 law, shall be referred only to such home or residence that is consistent
52 with that patient's needs and that operates pursuant to section four
53 hundred sixty of the social services law, provided further that: (A) for
54 a department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with
55 developmental disabilities or for an inpatient facility operated by the
56 office of alcoholism and substance abuse services or the office of

1 mental health, the facility director retains authority to determine
2 whether the home, program or residence is consistent with that patient's
3 needs and (B) such referral shall be made to the patient's home county
4 whenever possible or appropriate.

5 (II) No patient about to be discharged or conditionally released from
6 a department facility licensed or operated by the office for people with
7 developmental disabilities or from an inpatient facility operated or
8 licensed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services or the
9 office of mental health shall be referred to any adult home, enriched
10 housing program or residence for adults, as defined in section two of
11 the social services law, which has received an official written notice
12 from the department of health of: (A) the proposed revocation, suspen-
13 sion or denial of its operating certificate; (B) the limitation of its
14 operating certificate with respect to new admissions; (C) the issuance
15 of a department of health order or commissioner of health's order or the
16 seeking of equitable relief pursuant to section four hundred sixty-d of
17 the social services law; (D) the proposed assessment of civil penalties
18 for violations of the provisions of ~~[subparagraph two of]~~ paragraph
19 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) of subdivision seven of section four hundred sixty-d of the
20 social services law; or placement on the "do not refer list" pursuant to
21 subdivision fifteen of section four hundred sixty-d of the social
22 services law. Referrals may resume when such enforcement actions are
23 resolved.

24 § 13. Severability clause. If any provision of this act, or any appli-
25 cation of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, or to
26 violate or be inconsistent with any federal law or regulation, that
27 shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of
28 this act, which can be given effect without that provision or applica-
29 tion; and to that end, the provisions and applications of this act are
30 severable.

31 § 14. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
32 have become a law. Effective immediately, the commissioner of health
33 shall make regulations and take other actions necessary to implement
34 this act on that date.