

STATE OF NEW YORK

4828

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 16, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the emergency or disaster treatment preparedness act

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 30-E to read as follows:

ARTICLE 30-E

EMERGENCY OR DISASTER TREATMENT PREPAREDNESS ACT

Section 3090. Declaration of purpose.

3091. Definitions.

3092. Regional Step-Down Facility Plan.

§ 3090. Declaration of purpose. Given the devastating toll COVID-19 has taken on New York state, especially in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult care facilities, and concerns about a second wave of the virus, or of future pandemics, it is essential that the state is better prepared to handle a future crisis. It is the purpose of this article to ensure precautions are taken to prevent the repeated mistake of returning COVID-19 positive patients to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult care facilities where the population is comprised of high-risk individuals.

§ 3091. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. The term "hospital" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision one of section twenty-eight hundred one of this chapter and shall include any temporary health care facility established by the state or federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or any other pandemic related response.

2. The term "nursing home" shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred one of this chapter.

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

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1 3. The term "adult care facility" shall have the same meaning as such
2 term is defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two of the social
3 services law.

4 4. The term "assisted living residence" shall have the same meaning as
5 such term is defined in subdivision one of section forty-six hundred
6 fifty-one of article forty-six-B of this chapter.

7 5. The term "step-down facility" shall mean a facility specifically
8 established to temporarily care for individuals who have been discharged
9 from a hospital after receiving treatment for COVID-19, or any other
10 sickness related to a pandemic, to a nursing home, adult care facility
11 or assisted living residence where such individual resides until it is
12 safe for them to return, for the purpose of preventing the spread of
13 COVID-19 or any other sickness related to a pandemic. Step-down facili-
14 ties may also admit individuals from a nursing home, adult care facility
15 or assisted living residence who have tested positive for COVID-19, or
16 any other sickness related to a pandemic, or are suspected to be posi-
17 tive for such, who did not receive treatment or who were otherwise not
18 admitted and subsequently discharged from a hospital.

19 § 3092. Regional Step-Down Facility Plan. 1. The department, in
20 consultation with organizations representing hospitals, nursing homes,
21 adult care facilities and assisted living residences, shall develop a
22 plan to establish regional step-down facilities to reduce the risk of
23 transmission of COVID-19 or any other sickness related to a pandemic
24 within nursing homes, adult care facilities or assisted living resi-
25 dences, particularly after an individual who has received treatment for
26 COVID-19 or any other sickness related to a pandemic has been discharged
27 from a hospital and would otherwise return to a nursing home, adult care
28 facility or assisted living residence while still contagious. Such plan
29 will account for a possible resurgence of the COVID-19 infection rate,
30 or the emergence of any other sickness related to a pandemic.

31 2. The commissioner shall submit such plan to the governor, the tempo-
32 rary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority
33 leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the assembly, and shall
34 post such plan publicly on the department's website as expeditiously as
35 possible.

36 3. The commissioner shall review and update the regional step-down
37 facility plan biennially, or more frequently if the commissioner deter-
38 mines it necessary, and shall post such updated plan publicly on the
39 department's website as expeditiously as possible.

40 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.