

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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2525--B

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 26, 2023

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Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI, JEAN-PIERRE, DICKENS, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, SEPTIMO, SIMON, BRABENEC, DARLING, BURDICK, AUBRY, SHIMSKY, ANDERSON, DeSTEFANO, COLTON, FORREST, GIBBS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to expanding the age range for eligibility for the rent subsidy payable to a foster child living independently

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 5 of section 409-a of the  
2 social services law, as amended by section 1 of part BB of chapter 56 of  
3 the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:  
4 (c) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, where a  
5 social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is  
6 the primary factor preventing the discharge of a child or children from  
7 foster care including, but not limited to, children with the goal of  
8 discharge to independent living, preventive services shall include, in  
9 addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family,  
10 special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent  
11 arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing.  
12 Such rent subsidies or assistance shall not exceed the sum of seven  
13 hundred twenty-five dollars per month, shall not be provided for a peri-  
14 od of more than three years, may be provided up to age twenty-four for  
15 youth discharged from foster care, and shall be considered a special  
16 grant. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability  
17 of those using such rent subsidy to live with roommates. The provisions

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

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1 of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's  
2 authority to provide other preventive services.

3 (ii) Provided, however, that for each fiscal year beginning after the  
4 effective date of this subparagraph, the commissioner shall set the  
5 maximum amount for such rent subsidies or assistance pursuant to  
6 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at the amount of the previous fiscal  
7 year indexed to any positive growth in the consumer price index as set  
8 by the United States bureau of labor statistics.

9 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 409-a of the social services law, as  
10 amended by section 2 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2023, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a  
13 social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is a  
14 factor that may cause the entry of a child or children into foster care  
15 and the family has at least one service need other than lack of adequate  
16 housing, preventive services may include, in addition to any other  
17 payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the  
18 form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance,  
19 sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance  
20 shall not exceed the sum of seven hundred twenty-five dollars per month,  
21 shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, may be  
22 provided up to age twenty-four for youth discharged from foster care,  
23 and shall be considered a special grant. Nothing in this subdivision  
24 shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy  
25 to live with roommates. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be  
26 construed to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive  
27 services.

28 (b) Provided, however, that for each fiscal year beginning after the  
29 effective date of this paragraph, the commissioner shall set the maximum  
30 amount for such rent subsidies or assistance pursuant to paragraph (a)  
31 of this subdivision at the amount of the previous fiscal year indexed to  
32 any positive growth in the consumer price index as set by the United  
33 States bureau of labor statistics.

34 § 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same  
35 manner as section 1 of part BB of chapter 56 of the laws of 2023, takes  
36 effect.