

STATE OF NEW YORK

7204

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN, COLTON, CONRAD, HEVESI, RAMOS, REYES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the mental hygiene law, in relation to directing the commissioner of health and the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities to promulgate rules and regulations requiring every child beginning at the age of twelve months to be examined for autism spectrum disorders

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

Section 1. Section 2500-j of the public health law, as added by chapter 335 of the laws of 2008, the opening paragraph of subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 241 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2500-j. ~~[Autism spectrum disorders; screening of children]~~ Pediatric wellness visits; screening for autism spectrum disorders. 1. The commissioner shall ~~[establish, for use by]~~, jointly with the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities, and on or before May first, two thousand twenty-six, promulgate rules and regulations requiring every pediatric primary care ~~[providers, best practice protocols for early screening of children for autism spectrum disorders, including but not limited to developmental screening for children three years of age and under. Such protocols shall incorporate standards and guidelines established by the American Academy of Pediatrics, shall be updated at least biennially, and shall include, but not be limited to:]~~ provider, conducting a wellness and preventative care examination, on or after September first, two thousand twenty-six, of a child twelve months of age or older, to screen such child for autism spectrum disorders, and conduct such screening annually until the child reaches six years of age, and thereafter at eleven and fourteen years of age.

2. In addition, such rules and regulations shall establish guidelines and protocols for:

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

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1 (a) the best practices for the screening for and diagnosis of autism
2 spectrum disorders;

3 (b) the routine employment of objective autism spectrum disorder
4 screening tools [~~at regular intervals during critical childhood develop-~~
5 ~~mental stages;~~

6 ~~(b) a provider/parental dialogue, utilizing the modified checklist for~~
7 ~~autism in toddlers as a reference, intended to educate parents in regard~~
8 ~~to autism spectrum disorders]; and~~

9 (c) an appropriate referral mechanism for children who, based upon
10 results of the aforementioned screening process, require further evalu-
11 ation.

12 [~~2. The modified checklist for autism in toddlers referred to in~~
13 ~~subdivision one of this section shall be accessible by the public on the~~
14 ~~department's internet website.~~

15 ~~3. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules and regulations neces-~~
16 ~~sary to implement the provisions of this section.] 3. If the commission-~~
17 er and the commissioner of the office for people with developmental
18 disabilities shall fail to promulgate, on or before May first, two thou-
19 sand twenty-six, the rules and regulations required by subdivisions one
20 and two of this section, the department shall adopt and implement the
21 relevant federal rules and regulations relating thereto.

22 § 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 16.39
23 to read as follows:

24 § 16.39 Pediatric wellness visits; screening for autism spectrum disor-
25 ders.

26 The commissioner shall, jointly with the commissioner of health, and
27 on or before May first, two thousand twenty-six, promulgate any and all
28 rules and regulations required by subdivisions one and two of section
29 twenty-five hundred-j of the public health law relating to the screening
30 of children for autism spectrum disorders.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.