STATE OF NEW YORK

8640

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to employment of persons with autism spectrum disorder

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds there exists a critical and ongoing need to address the disproportionately high unemployment rates among individuals with autism spectrum disorder in New York State. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently estimates 1 in 31 children born are diagnosed with autism, signaling a growing segment of the population whose talents and contributions we should be ensuring are adequately represented in our state's workforce.

§ 2. The civil service law is amended by adding a new section 55-d to read as follows:

§ 55-d. Employment of persons with autism spectrum disorder by the state. 1. The commission may determine one in every thirty-six positions with duties such as can be performed by persons with autism spectrum disorder who are otherwise qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of any such position. Upon such determination, such positions shall be classified in the noncompetitive class, and may be filled only by persons who shall have been certified by the employee health service of the department as being a person with autism spectrum disorder.

2. Such employees hired under subdivision one of this section shall be afforded the same opportunity to take promotional examinations as provided to employees in the competitive class.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD14028-01-5