

STATE OF NEW YORK

9242

IN SENATE

February 18, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT directing the office of children and family services to conduct a statewide needs assessment on unmet needs of kinship caregivers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

- 1 Section 1. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office
2 of children and family services shall conduct a statewide needs assess-
3 ment to identify any unmet needs, including, but not limited to, hous-
4 ing, mental health access, financial assistance, childcare, and respite
5 care access for kinship caregivers. Such office shall further determine
6 if needs are being met throughout the state; suggest necessary improve-
7 ment areas and why certain areas need such improvement.
- 8 2. Upon request, every state and local agency shall cooperate with the
9 office of children and family services. For the accomplishment of its
10 purposes, the council may meet and hold public and/or private hearings
11 within or without the state, and shall have all the powers of a legisla-
12 tive committee pursuant to the legislative law. The council is author-
13 ized and empowered to undertake any studies, inquiries, surveys or
14 analyses it may deem relevant through its own personnel or in cooper-
15 ation with or by agreement with any other public or private agency.
- 16 § 2. The office of children and family services shall publish a report
17 containing the findings of such needs assessment and methods for
18 improvement. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the tempo-
19 rary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly no later
20 than two years after the effective date of this act.
- 21 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
22 deemed repealed two years after such effective date.

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

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