S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

May 12, 2010

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. MAGNARELLI, PAULIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to creating a public education initiative designed to eliminate stigma and misinformation about mental illness and chemical dependence among military service members; 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:

Section 1. Section 7.09 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (k) to read as follows:

(K) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS SHALL DEVELOP A PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE STIGMA AND MISINFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES, IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND THE EXISTENCE OF EFFECTIVE TREATMENT, AND PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND HOW TO ACCESS THEM. THESE PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF THE INTERNET, INCLUDING THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on June 30, 2012 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.

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

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