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

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. DESTITO, CYMBROWITZ, COLTON, ROBINSON, KOON, LUPARDO, ROSENTHAL, SPANO, LIFTON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ALFANO, BARRA, COOK, FARRELL, GALEF, GOTTFRIED, JOHN, MAYERSOHN, McENENY, MOLINARO, PAULIN, PHEFFER, P. RIVERA, SWEENEY, TOWNS, WEINSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a victims' assistance education program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 621 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 24 to read as follows:

24. "VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM" SHALL MEAN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE OR DEVELOP SKILLS THAT WOULD ENHANCE OR AUGMENT SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF CRIME. SUCH PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

(A) KNOWLEDGE OF MAJOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OF CRIME VICTIMS;

(B) PRACTICAL SKILLS REQUIRED IN PROVIDING PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF CRIME VICTIMS;

(C) STRESS AWARENESS AND METHODS OF DEALING WITH STRESS CAUSED BY A CRIME AND CAUSED BY WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF CRIME; AND

(D) IDENTIFICATION AND UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING ENTITLED BENEFIT, AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE.

S 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 623-a to read as follows:

S 623-A. VICTIM ASSISTANCE EDUCATION. 1. THE BOARD SHALL SCHEDULE AND COORDINATE AT LEAST TWO VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS ANNUALLY. ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM WHICH IS IDENTIFIED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

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

2. THE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE THAT ALL PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM EVERY TWO YEARS. UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD MAY ATTEND A SESSION DESIGNATED FOR PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF TO FULFILL THE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION IF HE OR SHE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND PROGRAMS DESIGNATED FOR BOARD MEMBERS.

3. THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES. SUCH PROGRAMS SHALL BE DELIVERED IN AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL FORMAT BY INSTRUCTORS WHO ARE SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED TO PROVIDE THE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM AND WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD AND VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE AGENCIES WITH THE MEANS TO EXPAND UPON PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CURRENT AND EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED THROUGH THE ONGOING RESEARCH IN THE RESPECTIVE FIELD OF STUDY.

4. VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR AND OFFERED TO POLICE AGENCIES, SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICES, STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS, PROVIDERS OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND ANY OTHER PERSONNEL WITH WHOM VICTIMS OF CRIME WILL INTERACT AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE BOARD.

5. THE BOARD SHALL EVALUATE ANNUALLY THE USE AND IMPACT OF VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED AND REPORT ANY FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that the chairman of the crime victims board shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement this act prior to such effective date.