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

4625

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 5, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. WALKER, TOBACCO, BARRA, ALFANO, KOLB, RAIA, CONTE, McDONOUGH, FIELDS, DUPREY, McKEVITT, THIELE, GIGLIO, SCOZZAFAVA, SAYWARD, FINCH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BACALLES, BURLING, CROUCH, ERRIGO, QUINN, RABBITT, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing an autism housing fund for the construction of group housing for individuals with autism, and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.41 to read as follows:

S 13.41 AUTISM HOUSING FUND.

THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AN AUTISM HOUSING FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF GROUP HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL HAVE THE CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND OTHERWISE COORDINATING THE STATE'S POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR THE DISABLED, THE OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE COMMISSION ON QUALITY OF CARE FOR THE MENTALLY DISABLED. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES HOUSING AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO DEVELOP A BIENNIAL PLAN AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FUNDING OF THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY-BASED HOUSING AND PROGRAMS AND, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, UTILIZE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS WITH DEMONSTRATED INTEREST AND EXPERTISE IN SERVING PERSONS WITH AUTISM AND SHALL, WITHIN FUNDS AVAILABLE, ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS.

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

LBD01741-02-9

S 2. The sum of fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved in the manner prescribed by law.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.