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

1557

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 3, 2009

Introduced by Sens. DIAZ, ADAMS, DUANE, HUNTLEY, MONTGOMERY, PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to authorizing the state office for the aging to implement a caregiver support program for grandparents and other older relatives who are caring for children

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

Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 224 to read as follows:

S 224. GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM. 1. THE DIRECTOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED, TO THE EXTENT APPROPRIATIONS ARE AVAILABLE THEREFOR, TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH A GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES TO GRANDPARENTS OR OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS WHO ARE PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE FOR A CHILD.

2. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

(A) "GRANDPARENT OR OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS" SHALL MEAN A GRANDPARENT OR STEPGRANDPARENT OF A CHILD OR A RELATIVE OF A CHILD BY BLOOD OR MARRIAGE WHO:

(I) IS SIXTY YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, AND

(II) LIVES WITH THE CHILD, AND

(III) PROVIDES PRIMARY CARE FOR THE CHILD BECAUSE THE BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO SERVE AS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER OF THE CHILD, AND

(IV) IS THE CUSTODIAN OR GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD, OR IS RAISING THE CHILD INFORMALLY.

(B) "CHILD" SHALL MEAN AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

3. THE GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

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

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(A) THE CREATION OF GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTERS BY LOCAL OFFICES FOR THE AGING IN NEW YORK STATE,

(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FOR GRANDPARENT AND OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS,

(C) INFORMATION AND REFERRAL FOR GRANDPARENT AND OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS,

(D) ASSISTANCE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS IN GAINING ACCESS TO AVAILABLE SERVICES,

(E) COUNSELING TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS IN MAKING DECISIONS AND SOLVING PROBLEMS RELATING TO THEIR CAREGIVING ROLES, AND

(F) THE PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF PRINTED MATERIAL RELATED TO SERVICES AVAILABLE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER OLDER ADULT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.