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

4323--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 22, 2009

Introduced by Sens. FOLEY, MONSERRATE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring the office of temporary and disability assistance to ensure that all recipients of public assistance reside in housing accommodations that are in compliance with all applicable building codes, ordinances and regulations of the municipality in which such housing accommodation is located

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

Section 1. Subdivisions (g), (h) and (i) of section 17 of the social services law, subdivision (g) as added by chapter 280 of the laws of 2002, subdivision (i) as amended by chapter 110 of the laws of 1971, subdivision (h) as added and subdivision (i) as relettered by section 1 of part K3 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007, are amended to read as follows:

(g) require participation of all employees of a child protective service in a training course which has been developed by the office for the prevention of domestic violence in conjunction with the office of children and family services whose purpose is to develop an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence and its connection to child abuse and neglect. Such course shall:

(i) pay special attention to the need to screen for domestic violence;

(ii) place emphasis on the psychological harm experienced by children whose environment is impacted by familial violence and accordingly explore avenues to keep such children with the non-abusive parent rather than placing them in foster care further traumatizing both the victim and the children;

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

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(iii) provide instruction regarding the scope of legal remedies for the abused parent;

(iv) identify obstacles that prevent individuals from leaving their batterers and examine safety options and services available for the victim;

(v) provide information pertaining to the unique barriers facing certain immigrant women and the options available under the federal Violence Against Women Act;

(vi) analyze procedures available to sanction and educate the abusing partner; and

(vii) emphasize the need for the system to hold the abusing partner responsible by appropriate referrals to law enforcement[.];

(h) make available on its website all award allocations for request for proposals issued by the office of children and family services upon release of such awards. Such information shall also include all organizations requesting funding and the amounts requested for each request for proposal. The office of children and family services may also include any other information related to each program that it deems appropriate[.];

(i) ENSURE THAT ALL RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LOCATED WITHIN SUFFOLK COUNTY RESIDE IN HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS THAT ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IS LOCATED AND UPON DISCOVERY THAT SUCH HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF SUCH DISCOVERY, CAUSE SUCH RECIPIENTS TO BE HOUSED IN EMERGENCY HOUSING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE INITIAL HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IN WHICH SUCH RECIPIENT OR RECIPIENTS RESIDED IS BROUGHT INTO COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH SUCH HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IS LOCATED OR UNTIL A SUITABLE PERMANENT HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IS LOCATED, WHICHEVER OCCURS EARLIER; AND

(J) exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be imposed by law.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. 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 to be made on or before such effective date.