

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the executive law, in relation to reporting of abuses of persons receiving care in residential health care facilities; and to repeal paragraph (e) of subdivision 6 of section 2803-d of the public health law relating to the confidentiality of information relating to such abuses

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

1     Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 6 of section 2803-d of the  
2     public health law, as amended by chapter 414 of the laws of 1986, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     (c) All information relating to any allegation which the commissioner  
5     has determined would not be sustained shall be expunged [one hundred  
6     twenty days] FIVE YEARS following notification of such determination to  
7     the person who made the report pursuant to this section, unless a  
8     proceeding pertaining to such allegation is pending pursuant to article  
9     seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules. Whenever information  
10    is expunged, the commissioner shall notify any official notified pursu-  
11    ant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision that the information has been  
12    expunged.  
13    S 2. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 6 of section 2803-d of the public  
14    health law is REPEALED and a new paragraph (e) is added to read as  
15    follows:  
16    (E) (I) ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY ALLEGATION THAT THE COMMIS-  
17    SIONER HAS DETERMINED WOULD NOT BE SUSTAINED, SHALL BE SEALED ONE  
18    HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF SUCH DETERMINATION TO THE  
19    PERSON WHO MADE THE REPORT. SUCH REPORTS MAY BE UNSEALED AND MADE AVAIL-  
20    ABLE ONLY TO (A) THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT; OR (B) A DISTRICT ATTORNEY,  
21    AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AN ASSISTANT

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

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1 ATTORNEY GENERAL, AN INVESTIGATOR EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF A DISTRICT  
2 ATTORNEY OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR TO A POLICE OFFICER BY THE DIVISION  
3 OF STATE POLICE, BY A CITY, COUNTY, TOWN OR VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR  
4 BY A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHEN SUCH OFFICIAL REPRESENTS THAT THE  
5 REPORT IS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT AN ACTIVE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION  
6 RELATED TO ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE, MISTREATMENT OR NEGLECT, OR  
7 THE FAILURE TO REPORT SUCH AN INCIDENT.

8 (II) PERSONS GIVEN ACCESS TO REPORTS PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
9 THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT REDISCLOSE SUCH REPORTS EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO  
10 CONDUCT SUCH APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION AND SHALL REQUEST  
11 OF THE COURT THAT ANY COPIES OF SUCH REPORTS PRODUCED IN ANY COURT  
12 PROCEEDING BE REDACTED TO REMOVE THE NAMES OF THE SUBJECTS AND OTHER  
13 PERSONS NAMED IN THE REPORTS OR THAT THE COURT ISSUE AN ORDER PROTECTING  
14 THE NAMES OF THE SUBJECTS AND OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE REPORTS FROM  
15 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

16 S 3. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 6 of section 2803-d of the public  
17 health law, as amended by chapter 340 of the laws of 1980, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (f) [Information] ANY REPORT OF PHYSICAL ABUSE, MISTREATMENT OR  
20 NEGLECT, RECORD OF THE INVESTIGATION OF SUCH REPORT AND ALL OTHER INFOR-  
21 MATION RELATED TO SUCH REPORT SHALL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND SHALL BE EXEMPT  
22 FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER ARTICLE SIX OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW, PROVIDED  
23 HOWEVER THAT INFORMATION relating to a report made pursuant to this  
24 section shall be disclosed under any of the following conditions:

25 (i) pursuant to article six of the public officers law after expunge-  
26 ment or amendment, if any, is made in accordance with a hearing  
27 conducted pursuant to this section, or at least forty-five days after a  
28 written determination is made by the commissioner concerning such  
29 report, whichever is later; provided, however, that the identity of the  
30 person who made the report, the victim, or any other person named,  
31 except a person who the commissioner has determined committed an act of  
32 physical abuse, neglect or mistreatment, shall not be disclosed unless  
33 such person authorizes such disclosure;

34 (ii) as may be required by the penal law or any lawful order or  
35 warrant issued pursuant to the criminal procedure law; or

36 (iii) to a person who has requested a hearing pursuant to this  
37 section, information relating to the determination upon which the hear-  
38 ing is to be conducted; provided, however, that the identity of the  
39 person who made the report or any other person who provided information  
40 in an investigation of the report shall not be disclosed unless such  
41 person authorizes such disclosure[.]; OR

42 (IV) TO A PROSECUTOR, INCLUDING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHEN SUCH  
43 REQUEST IS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH AND NECESSARY TO THE FURTHERANCE OF A  
44 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION RELATED TO THE ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE,  
45 NEGLECT OR MISTREATMENT, OR FAILURE TO REPORT SUCH ACTS. A PROSECUTOR  
46 WHO OBTAINS SUCH RECORDS SHALL MAINTAIN THEM AS CONFIDENTIAL AND SHALL  
47 NOT DISCLOSE THEM EXCEPT IN CONNECTION WITH GRAND JURY OR JUDICIAL  
48 PROCEEDINGS.

49 S 4. Subdivision 16 of section 296 of the executive law, as separately  
50 amended by section 3 of part N and section 14 of part AAA of chapter 56  
51 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

52 16. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice, unless specif-  
53 ically required or permitted by statute, for any person, agency, bureau,  
54 corporation or association, including the state and any political subdivi-  
55 sion thereof, to make any inquiry about, whether in any form of appli-  
56 cation or otherwise, or to act upon adversely to the individual

1 involved, (A) any arrest or criminal accusation of such individual not  
2 then pending against that individual which was followed by a termination  
3 of that criminal action or proceeding in favor of such individual, as  
4 defined in subdivision two of section 160.50 of the criminal procedure  
5 law, or by a youthful offender adjudication, as defined in subdivision  
6 one of section 720.35 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction  
7 for a violation sealed pursuant to section 160.55 of the criminal proce-  
8 dure law or (B) by a conviction which is sealed pursuant to section  
9 160.58 of the criminal procedure law OR (C) ANY REPORT MADE UNDER  
10 SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED-THREE-D OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW WHERE A  
11 DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE THAT THE ALLEGATION WOULD NOT BE SUSTAINED,  
12 in connection with the licensing, employment or providing of credit or  
13 insurance to such individual; provided, further, that no person shall be  
14 required to divulge information pertaining to any arrest or criminal  
15 accusation of such individual not then pending against that individual  
16 which was followed by a termination of that criminal action or proceed-  
17 ing in favor of such individual, as defined in subdivision two of  
18 section 160.50 of the criminal procedure law, or by a youthful offender  
19 adjudication, as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the  
20 criminal procedure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursu-  
21 ant to section 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction  
22 which is sealed pursuant to section 160.58 of the criminal procedure  
23 law. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the licensing  
24 activities of governmental bodies in relation to the regulation of guns,  
25 firearms and other deadly weapons or in relation to an application for  
26 employment as a police officer or peace officer as those terms are  
27 defined in subdivisions thirty-three and thirty-four of section 1.20 of  
28 the criminal procedure law; provided further that the provisions of this  
29 subdivision shall not apply to an application for employment or member-  
30 ship in any law enforcement agency with respect to any arrest or crimi-  
31 nal accusation which was followed by a youthful offender adjudication,  
32 as defined in subdivision one of section 720.35 of the criminal proce-  
33 dure law, or by a conviction for a violation sealed pursuant to section  
34 160.55 of the criminal procedure law, or by a conviction which is sealed  
35 pursuant to section 160.58 of the criminal procedure law.  
36 S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
37 it shall have become a law.