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I N   S E N A T E

March 23, 2012

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Introduced by Sen. ROBACH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to patients interred at state mental health hospital cemeteries

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

1     Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section  
2     33.27 to read as follows:  
3     S 33.27 RELEASE OF CERTAIN PATIENTS' NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH.  
4     (A) TO MARK HEADSTONES OR OTHERWISE MEMORIALIZE PATIENTS INTERRED AT  
5     STATE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL CEMETERIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL  
6     HYGIENE SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE THE NAME, DATE OF BIRTH AND DATE OF DEATH  
7     OF PATIENTS BURIED IN STATE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL CEMETERIES FIFTY  
8     YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF A PATIENT.  
9     (B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "STATE MENTAL HEALTH  
10    HOSPITALS" SHALL MEAN ANY STATE-FUNDED INSTITUTION TO CARE FOR AND HELP  
11    TREAT THE MENTALLY ILL OR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED IN NEW YORK STATE.  
12    SUCH TERM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO FORMER ASYLUMS FOR THE  
13    INSANE, SUCH AS THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, UTICA STATE HOSPITAL,  
14    WILLARD ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, WILLARD STATE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK STATE  
15    INEBRIATE ASYLUM, BINGHAMTON ASYLUM FOR THE CHRONIC INSANE, BINGHAMTON  
16    STATE HOSPITAL, BUFFALO STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, NEW YORK STATE  
17    ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, BUFFALO STATE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK STATE ASYLUM FOR  
18    IDIOTS AND THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS IN ALBANY.  
19    S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
20    it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
21    ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
22    tation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made on or  
23    before such date.

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

LBD13640-01-1