

7069--A

I N   S E N A T E

April 26, 2012

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Introduced by Sen. JOHNSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to averting retraumatization of victims of sexual offenses in a behavioral health outpatient setting

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     7.44 to read as follows:  
3     S 7.44 VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES; OUTPATIENT GROUP SETTING.  
4     THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES REGARDING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL  
5     OFFENSES RECEIVING SERVICES IN AN OUTPATIENT GROUP SETTING. SUCH GUIDE-  
6     LINES SHALL OUTLINE BEST PRACTICES PROVIDERS MAY USE WHEN PROVIDING  
7     SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN AN EFFORT TO AVERT RETRAUMATIZA-  
8     TION BY KNOWN SEX OFFENDERS. SUCH BEST PRACTICES SHALL, TO THE GREATEST  
9     EXTENT POSSIBLE, BE BASED ON EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES. IN CREATING SUCH  
10    GUIDELINES, THE OFFICE SHALL CONSULT WITH STAKEHOLDERS. SUCH STAKEHOLD-  
11    ERS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMER  
12    ADVOCATES, PROVIDERS AND VICTIM RIGHTS GROUPS.  
13    S 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.43  
14    to read as follows:  
15    S 19.43 VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES; OUTPATIENT GROUP SETTING.  
16    THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES REGARDING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL  
17    OFFENSES RECEIVING SERVICES IN AN OUTPATIENT GROUP SETTING. SUCH GUIDE-  
18    LINES SHALL OUTLINE BEST PRACTICES PROVIDERS MAY USE WHEN PROVIDING  
19    SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN AN EFFORT TO AVERT RETRAUMATIZA-  
20    TION BY KNOWN SEX OFFENDERS. SUCH BEST PRACTICES SHALL, TO THE GREATEST  
21    EXTENT POSSIBLE, BE BASED ON EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES. IN CREATING SUCH  
22    GUIDELINES, THE OFFICE SHALL CONSULT WITH STAKEHOLDERS. SUCH STAKEHOLD-  
23    ERS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMER  
24    ADVOCATES, PROVIDERS AND VICTIM RIGHTS GROUPS.  
25    S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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