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I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 16, 2014

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Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. McDonald) --  
read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a  
public awareness campaign on heroin and opioid addiction

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

1     Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby establishes a  
2 public awareness and educational campaign to inform the public about  
3 heroin and prescription opioid pain medication addiction. Heroin and  
4 other opioids are highly addictive and as a result, a public health  
5 crisis has emerged in New York State. This campaign will complement  
6 existing programs administered by the Department of Health and the  
7 Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services on prescription pain  
8 medication awareness. The educational campaign will be statewide and  
9 should be designed to alert youth, parents, high risk populations, and  
10 the general population by providing educational materials on the  
11 subjects to schools and community groups.

12     S 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.26  
13 to read as follows:

14 S 19.26 HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION OPIOID PAIN MEDICATION ADDICTION AWARE-  
15 NESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

16 THE COMMISSIONER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPART-  
17 MENT OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP, ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC AWARE-  
18 NESS AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION.

19 (A) THE CAMPAIGN SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON:

20 (I) THE DANGERS OF THE ABUSE OF HEROIN AND THE HIGH RISK OF ADDICTION;

21 (II) THE DANGERS OF MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS AND THE HIGH RISK OF  
22 ADDICTION;

23 (III) HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ADDICTION FOR NON-MEDICAL PROFES-  
24 SIONALS;

25 (IV) THE PROMOTION OF THE OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM, PURSUANT  
26 TO SECTION THIRTY-THREE HUNDRED NINE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, AND THE  
27 GOOD SAMARITAN LAW, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 220.03 AND 220.78 OF THE PENAL  
28 LAW AND SECTION 390.40 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW; AND

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

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1 (V) REDUCING THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH ADDICTION.

2 (B) THE CAMPAIGN SHALL INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH THE USE OF  
3 SOCIAL AND MASS MEDIA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INTERNET, RADIO,  
4 AND PRINT ADVERTISING SUCH AS BILLBOARDS AND POSTERS. THE CAMPAIGN WILL  
5 ALSO IDENTIFY AND RECRUIT INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS VISIBLE, PUBLIC AMBAS-  
6 SADOWS TO PROMOTE THIS MESSAGE. SUCH AMBASSADORS MAY INCLUDE PROFES-  
7 SIONAL AND AMATEUR ATHLETES AND CELEBRITY ADVOCATES FROM MEDIA, MUSIC  
8 AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT MEDIUMS. THE CAMPAIGN SHALL INCLUDE AN INTERNET  
9 WEBSITE PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CHILDREN AND HEALTH CARE  
10 PROFESSIONALS ON THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TAKING OPIOIDS AND HEROIN AND  
11 THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THOSE NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH HEROIN OR  
12 OPIOID ADDICTION. SUCH WEBSITE SHALL ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING  
13 WHERE INDIVIDUALS MAY PROPERLY DISPOSE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN THEIR  
14 COMMUNITY AND INCLUDE ACTIVE LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES.  
15 THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSULT WITH RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO  
16 DEVELOP MATERIAL. THE CAMPAIGN SHALL BEGIN NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER  
17 FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN.

18 (C) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR  
19 AND THE LEGISLATURE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER FIRST OF EACH YEAR ON THE  
20 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING:

21 (I) ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE OFFICE TO CARRY OUT THE PUBLIC AWARENESS  
22 CAMPAIGN AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; AND

23 (II) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OFFICE TO  
24 MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

25 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.