

7313--A

R. R. 351

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 10, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI, WEISENBERG, GUNTHER, ROBERTS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. McDONALD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- amended on the special order of third reading, ordered reprinted as amended, retaining its place on the special order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the direct support professional credential pilot program

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     13.41 to read as follows:  
3     S 13.41 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM.  
4     (A) THE OFFICE SHALL INITIATE A PROGRAM TO CONTINUE TO GAIN THE EXPER-  
5     TISE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORKFORCE AND OF  
6     THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION NEEDS  
7     THROUGHOUT THE FIELD. THE OFFICE SHALL IMPLEMENT A DIRECT SUPPORT  
8     PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST AND ATTRACT INDIVIDUALS  
9     INTO THE FIELD OF DIRECT SUPPORT, ADVANCE DIRECT SUPPORT AS A CAREER AND  
10    PROFESSIONALIZE THE FIELD TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION  
11    EFFORTS, ADVANCE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES, AND FURTHER ENSURE THE HEALTH,  
12    SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF INDIVIDUALS BEING SERVED.  
13    (B) THERE HEREBY IS CREATED THE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL  
14    PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE OFFICE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN THE FIELD  
15    OBTAIN A CREDENTIAL IN THEIR FIELD OF EXPERTISE.  
16    (1) SUCH PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE FOR THREE  
17    YEARS. THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES AND  
18    NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROVIDERS, LICENSED AND CERTIFIED BY THE OFFICE. THE  
19    PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE TO ASSESS HOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
20    A STATE ACCREDITED DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL: (A) PROMOTES  
21    RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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

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1 FIELD, NOTABLY THE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL POSITION; (B) ENHANCES  
2 COMPETENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FIELD; (C) YIELDS QUALITY  
3 SUPPORTS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;  
4 AND (D) ADVANCES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE  
5 STATE.

6 (2) THE OFFICE IN ADMINISTERING THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL CONSIDER, BUT  
7 NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

8 (A) BEST PRACTICES LEARNING INITIATIVES, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITY OF  
9 MINNESOTA'S COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT AND NEW YORK STATE DIRECT SUPPORT  
10 PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES;

11 (B) NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES OR CREDENTIALING  
12 BASED STANDARDS AND TRAININGS;

13 (C) FACILITATING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT;

14 (D) THE ROLE AND VALUE OF SKILL MENTORS; AND

15 (E) CREATING A CAREER LADDER.

16 (3) DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL MEANS A DOCUMENT ISSUED TO  
17 AN INDIVIDUAL BY A RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODY ATTESTING THAT SUCH INDIVIDUAL  
18 HAS MET THE PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE CREDENTIALING  
19 PROGRAM BY THE OFFICE.

20 (4) THE OFFICE SHALL PRODUCE A REPORT DETAILING THE PROGRESS OF THE  
21 PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

22 (A) THE RATE OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS  
23 OF PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM COMPARED TO THE  
24 RATE FOR NON-PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS;

25 (B) THE NUMBER OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS CREDENTIALLED; AND

26 (C) THE ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY SUPPORTS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS  
27 WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

28 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
29 it shall have become a law.