S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

7885

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

June 7, 2013

Introduced by M. of A. SWEENEY, GOTTFRIED -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT making an appropriation for Children's Environmental Health Centers

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state of New York to assure that every child has access to quality health care in relation to potential disease, disability and injury related to environmental toxins and other environmental threats to health. The legislature further declares that prevention of disability, disease and injury attributable to environmental causes is far preferable to children suffering from toxic exposures. The incidence of children's acquired neurological disability, such as autism, learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and serious acquired illness, such as asthma, obesity, diabetes and childhood cancer, are growing at an alarming rate. Many cases of these diseases have been linked to harmful exposures in the environment. Not only does each of these cases cause incalculable pain and suffering for these children, their families and their communities, but additionally these diseases cost New York state an estimated $6 billion each year.

Many medical practitioners seek the assistance and guidance of physicians with expertise in the identification and treatment of childhood ailments of environmental origin, but find that a coordinated and comprehensive system of environmental health centers is lacking in New York state.

Further, parents, schools, day-care centers, preschools and many others in the community seek authoritative and expert information concerning possible toxins, yet find that such coordinated and comprehensive expertise is similarly lacking in New York state's communities.

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

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S 2. The sum of one million dollars ($1,000,000) or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Children's Environmental Health Centers out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the services and expenses of Children's Environmental Health Centers on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by Children's Environmental Health Centers in the manner provided by law.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.