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I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 1, 2014

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Introduced by M. of A. TITUS, CRESPO, COOK, ROBERTS, JAFFEE, MOSLEY --  
Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CAMARA, CLARK, GLICK, GOTTFRIED, HEAST-  
IE, PEOPLES-STOKES, PERRY, SCARBOROUGH, THIELE -- read once and  
referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to recipients of  
public assistance who lack appropriate child care

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 131 of the social services law, as  
2     added by section 11 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     5. No public assistance shall be given to an applicant for or recipi-  
5     ent of public assistance who has failed to comply with the requirements  
6     of this chapter, or has refused to accept employment in which he or she  
7     is able to engage. EXCEPT THAT NO APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT WHO IS THE  
8     PARENT OR CARETAKER RELATIVE OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD SHALL BE SUBJECT TO  
9     THE INELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER IF THE LACK OF CHILD CARE  
10    THAT IS APPROPRIATE, SUITABLE, AND WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE, AND  
11    REFLECTS PARENTAL PREFERENCES PREVENTS THE INDIVIDUAL FROM COMPLYING  
12    WITH THE REQUIREMENTS THEREIN.  
13    S 2. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 1 of section 332 of the social  
14    services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the  
15    laws of 1997, is amended and a new paragraph (f) is added to read as  
16    follows:  
17    (e) a woman who is pregnant, beginning thirty days prior to the  
18    medically verified date of delivery of her child[.];  
19    (F) THE PARENT OR CARETAKER RELATIVE OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD, FOR THE  
20    PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH SUCH PARTICIPATION IS PREVENTED BY THE LACK  
21    OF CHILD CARE THAT IS APPROPRIATE, SUITABLE AND WITHIN A REASONABLE  
22    DISTANCE, AND THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE CHILD CARE PREFERENCES INCLUDED  
23    IN THE PARENT'S ASSESSMENT.  
24    S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 336-d of the social services law, as  
25    added by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is  
26    amended to read as follows:

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

LBD02043-01-3

1 1. Each applicant for or recipient of public assistance shall, upon  
2 request of the social services official, demonstrate that he or she is  
3 engaged in an active and continuing effort to achieve self-sufficiency  
4 as defined by the department. Such effort shall include but not be  
5 limited to an active and continuing search for employment, or for  
6 persons otherwise exempt in accordance with section three hundred thir-  
7 ty-two of this title, and where deemed appropriate by the social  
8 services official, activities that foster preparation for employment.  
9 Each such applicant or recipient shall have an affirmative duty to  
10 accept any offer of lawful employment in which he or she may engage. The  
11 failure of a social services district to assign applicants and recipi-  
12 ents to activities pursuant to this title shall not relieve such persons  
13 from the requirements of this section. An individual who fails to  
14 comply with the requirements of the section shall be subject to the  
15 provisions set forth in subdivision five of section one hundred thirty-  
16 one of this chapter and [of section] SECTIONS three hundred forty-one  
17 and three hundred forty-two of this title. EXCEPT THAT NO APPLICANT OR  
18 RECIPIENT WHO IS THE PARENT OR CARETAKER RELATIVE OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD  
19 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE INELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IF THE  
20 LACK OF CHILD CARE THAT IS APPROPRIATE, SUITABLE, AND WITHIN A REASON-  
21 ABLE DISTANCE PREVENTS THE INDIVIDUAL FROM COMPLYING WITH THE WORK  
22 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

23 S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
24 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
25 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
26 tation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made on or  
27 before such date.