

154--A

Cal. No. 166

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. WEINSTEIN, GOTTFRIED, O'DONNELL, PERRY, ORTIZ, STECK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. NOLAN, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- advanced to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the social services law and the public health law, in relation to granting residents of adult care facilities a cause of action to seek the appointment of temporary operators of such facilities

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

1     Section 1. Section 461-c of the social services law is amended by  
2     adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:  
3     10. (A) AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF A  
4     RESIDENT OR RESIDENTS OF AN ADULT CARE FACILITY, SUCH RESIDENT OR RESI-  
5     DENTS MAY SEEK JUDICIAL RELIEF. IN ADDITION TO OTHER FORMS OF RELIEF  
6     AVAILABLE UNDER THIS ARTICLE, A RESIDENT OR RESIDENTS MAY SEEK EQUITABLE  
7     RELIEF FROM A COURT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE APPOINTMENT OF A  
8     TEMPORARY OPERATOR PURSUANT TO SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED SIX-A OF THE  
9     PUBLIC HEALTH LAW. AN ACTION OR PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL  
10    BE COMMENCED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE FACILITY IS  
11    LOCATED.  
12    (B) UPON THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION OR PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO PARA-  
13    GRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH SHALL BE  
14    SERVED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AS A PARTY TO THE ACTION OR  
15    PROCEEDING. IN ADDITION TO OTHER METHODS OF SERVICE AUTHORIZED BY LAW,  
16    SERVICE UPON SUCH COMMISSIONER MAY BE EFFECTUATED AT SUCH COMMISSIONER'S  
17    OFFICE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK OR IN THE CITY OF ALBANY. FAILURE OF THE  
18    COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH TO JOIN THE ACTION OR PROCEEDING SHALL NOT BE AN  
19    IMPEDIMENT TO THE ACTION OR PROCEEDING. ON THE RETURN OF SUCH ACTION OR

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

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1 PROCEEDING SEEKING THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY OPERATOR, IT SHALL  
2 HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER EVERY OTHER BUSINESS OF THE COURT UNLESS THE COURT  
3 SHALL FIND THAT SOME OTHER PENDING PROCEEDING, HAVING SIMILAR STATUTORY  
4 PRECEDENCE, SHALL HAVE PRIORITY. IF THE COURT SHALL FIND THAT CONDI-  
5 TIONS ENDANGERING THE HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE OF A RESIDENT OR RESI-  
6 DENTS EXIST, THE COURT MAY MAKE AN ORDER GRANTING SUCH EQUITABLE RELIEF  
7 AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DIRECTING THE  
8 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY OPERATOR TO ASSUME SOLE  
9 CONTROL AND SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE FACILITY.

10 (C) THE COURT MAY AWARD THE RESIDENT OR RESIDENTS IN AN ACTION OR  
11 PROCEEDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY OPERATOR NECESSARY AND  
12 REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENT OR RESI-  
13 DENTS, INCLUDING COSTS AND ATTORNEYS' FEES.

14 S 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 2806-a of the public  
15 health law, as amended by section 8 of part K of chapter 57 of the laws  
16 of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

17 (a) In the event that: (i) (A) a facility seeks extraordinary finan-  
18 cial assistance and the commissioner finds that the facility is experi-  
19 encing serious financial instability that is jeopardizing existing or  
20 continued access to essential services within the community, or [(ii)]  
21 (B) the commissioner finds that there are conditions within the facility  
22 that seriously endanger the life, health or safety of residents or  
23 patients, the commissioner may appoint a temporary operator to assume  
24 sole control and sole responsibility for the operations of that facili-  
25 ty, or [(iii)] (C) the commissioner finds that there has been an improp-  
26 er delegation of management authority by the governing authority or  
27 operator of a general hospital, the commissioner shall appoint a tempo-  
28 rary operator to assume sole control and sole responsibility for the  
29 operations of that facility; OR (II) THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY  
30 OPERATOR IS ORDERED BY THE COURT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TEN OF SECTION  
31 FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE-C OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LAW, THE COMMISSIONER  
32 SHALL APPOINT A TEMPORARY OPERATOR TO ASSUME SOLE CONTROL AND SOLE  
33 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THAT FACILITY. The appointment of  
34 the temporary operator shall be effectuated pursuant to this section and  
35 shall be in addition to any other remedies provided by law.

36 S 3. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
37 have become a law, provided that the amendments to section 2806-a of the  
38 public health law, made by section two of this act shall not affect the  
39 expiration and repeal of such section and shall expire and be deemed  
40 repealed therewith.