

5337

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 18, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. CYMBROWITZ, DINOWITZ, COLTON, CRESPO, JAFFEE, ROBINSON, LUPARDO, WEPRIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE, ARROYO, AUBRY, BARRON, MAGEE, ROSENTHAL, SCHIMEL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to requiring establishment of model community programs for local agencies, including a model telephone reassurance program and a model visiting program for elders

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

1     Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 203-a to  
2 read as follows:

3     S 203-A. MODEL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOP-  
4 MENT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE AGING WITH DIGNITY IN  
5 COMMUNITIES, THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP MODEL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO BE  
6 DISTRIBUTED UPON REQUEST TO LOCAL AREA AGENCIES ON AGING AND COMMUNITY  
7 BASED ORGANIZATIONS. SUCH MODEL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE THE  
8 FOLLOWING:

9     1. A MODEL TELEPHONE REASSURANCE PROGRAM SHALL BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE  
10 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

11     (A) PHONE CALLS BY THE ORGANIZATION MAINTAINING THE PROGRAM TO PARTIC-  
12 IPATING SENIORS AT AN AGREED UPON TIME EACH DAY;

13     (B) A SECONDARY CONTACT, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO BE CONTACTED IF THE  
14 SENIOR DOES NOT ANSWER THE INITIAL CALL AND BEFORE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
15 ARE CONTACTED;

16     (C) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE AN APPROPRIATE  
17 RESPONSE IN THE EVENT THE SENIOR CANNOT BE CONTACTED;

18     (D) ADVANCE CONSENT TO ACCESS TO THE HOME BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO  
19 DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE SENIOR IF CONTACT WITH THE SENIOR COULD NOT  
20 BE MADE; AND

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

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1 (E) INCREASED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SENIORS UTILIZING THE PROGRAM  
2 AND PROGRAM OPERATORS TO REDUCE INCIDENTS RESULTING IN UNNECESSARY LAW  
3 ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE.

4 2. A MODEL VISITING PROGRAM SHALL BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE SENIORS WITH  
5 A VISITOR WHO CAN OFFER CONTACT ON A REGULAR BASIS AND COMPANIONSHIP FOR  
6 SENIORS WHO LACK A NETWORK OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.  
7 THE MODEL VISITING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (A) METHODS TO OBTAIN VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING BY PARTNERING WITH LOCAL  
9 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS;

10 (B) SYSTEMS TO SCREEN VOLUNTEERS TO BOTH ENSURE A GOOD MATCH AND  
11 PROTECT SENIORS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM;

12 (C) SYSTEMS TO PERIODICALLY CHECK ON BOTH VOLUNTEERS AND THE SENIORS;  
13 AND

14 (D) RESPONSES TO PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE.

15 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.