

7053

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

April 22, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to appointments and duties of the developmental disabilities advisory council and to the submission and posting of a statewide plan for services

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (a) and the opening paragraph of subdivision
2 (c) of section 13.05 of the mental hygiene law, subdivision (a) as
3 amended by chapter 37 of the laws of 2011 and the opening paragraph of
4 subdivision (c) as amended by section 5 of part N of chapter 56 of the
5 laws of 2012, are amended to read as follows:
6 (a) There is hereby established a developmental disabilities advisory
7 council. The council shall consist of the commissioner, the chairman of
8 the conference of local mental hygiene directors or his designee, and
9 [at least] NO LESS THAN thirty-three members [to be appointed by the
10 governor] APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS: TWENTY-THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
11 GOVERNOR; FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE
12 SENATE; AND FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY. ANY
13 INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED PROPORTIONALLY BY
14 THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF
15 THE ASSEMBLY, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE. Members shall be appointed only
16 if they have demonstrated an active interest in or have obtained profes-
17 sional knowledge in the care of persons with developmental disabilities
18 or in the field of developmental disabilities generally. The governor
19 shall designate one of the appointed members as chair. The council shall
20 at all times include in its membership representatives of community
21 service board developmental disabilities subcommittees, providers of
22 services and non-governmental organizations concerned with services for
23 persons with developmental disabilities. At least one-third of the
24 membership of the advisory council shall consist of consumer represen-

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

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1 tatives including persons with developmental disabilities, or their
2 parents or guardians.

3 The developmental disabilities advisory council shall have no execu-
4 tive, administrative or appointive duties. The council shall have the
5 duty to foster public understanding and acceptance of developmental
6 disabilities. It shall, in cooperation with the commissioner of develop-
7 mental disabilities, provide recommendations for statewide priorities
8 and goals for services for individuals with developmental disabilities
9 [and], INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS AND
10 PRIORITY OF SUCH NEED BASED ON THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
11 DISABILITIES REGISTRATION WAITLIST; EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING
12 ALTERNATIVE WORK SETTINGS; SELF-DIRECTED MODELS OF CARE; THE CENSUS
13 REDUCTION OF INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE SETTINGS AND REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS
14 FROM SUCH REDUCTION INTO COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES; AND ANY OTHER
15 PROGRAMMATIC OR LEGISLATIVE NEED RELATED TO THE STATE MEETING ITS STATU-
16 TORY REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO THE OLMSTEAD ACT. THE COUNCIL shall ALSO
17 advise the commissioner on matters related to development and implemen-
18 tation of the statewide comprehensive plan as required under section
19 5.07 of this chapter. The advisory council shall have the power to
20 consider any matter relating to the improvement of the state develop-
21 mental disabilities program and shall advise the commissioner of devel-
22 opmental disabilities thereon and on any matter relating to the perform-
23 ance of their duties with relation to individuals with developmental
24 disabilities and on policies, goals, budget and operation of develop-
25 mental disabilities services.

26 S 2. Paragraph 3 of subdivision (b) of section 5.07 of the mental
27 hygiene law, as amended by section 3 of part N of chapter 56 of the laws
28 of 2012, is amended to read as follows:

29 (3) The commissioners of each of the offices shall be responsible for
30 the development of such statewide five-year plan for services within the
31 jurisdiction of their respective offices and after giving due notice
32 shall conduct one or more public hearings on such plan. The behavioral
33 health services advisory council and the advisory council on develop-
34 mental disabilities shall review the statewide five year comprehensive
35 plan developed by such office or offices and report its recommendations
36 thereon to such commissioner or commissioners. Each commissioner shall
37 submit the plan, with appropriate modifications, to the governor no
38 later than the first day of November of each year in order that such
39 plan may be considered with the estimates of the offices for the prepa-
40 ration of the executive budget of the state of New York for the next
41 succeeding state fiscal year. Such comprehensive plan shall be submitted
42 to the legislature and also be posted to the website of each office NO
43 LATER THAN THE FIFTEENTH OF JANUARY OF EACH YEAR. Statewide plans shall
44 ensure responsiveness to changing needs and goals and shall reflect the
45 development of new information and the completion of program evalu-
46 ations. An interim report detailing the commissioner's actions in
47 fulfilling the requirements of this section in preparation of the plan
48 and modifications in the plan of services being considered by the
49 commissioner shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature on
50 or before the fifteenth day of March of each year. Such interim report
51 shall include, but need not be limited to:

52 (a) actions to include participation of consumers, consumer groups,
53 providers of services and departmental facilities, as required by this
54 subdivision; and

55 (b) any modifications in the plan of services being considered by the
56 commissioner, to include: (i) compelling budgetary, programmatic or

1 clinical justifications or other major appropriate reason for any
2 significant new statewide programs or policy changes from a prior
3 (approved) five year comprehensive plan; and (ii) procedures to involve
4 or inform local governmental units of such actions or plans.
5 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
6 the amendments to subdivision (a) of section 13.05 of the mental hygiene
7 law made by section one of this act shall take effect upon the next
8 succeeding re-appointment time period, or as vacancies occur, and
9 provided, further, that the amendments to the opening paragraph of
10 subdivision (c) of section 13.05 of the mental hygiene law made by
11 section one of this act shall take effect April 1, 2016.