9287

IN ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing the youth in progress advisory board and regional teams for adolescents in foster care for the state

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

1 Section 1. Article 6 of the social services law is amended by adding a 2 new title 1-B to read as follows:

TITLE 1-B YOUTH IN PROGRESS

5 SECTION 394. YOUTH IN PROGRESS.

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S 394. YOUTH IN PROGRESS. 1. THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS STATEWIDE ADVISORY б 7 BOARD IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSES OF BRINGING TOGETHER YOUTH AGE FOURTEEN AND OLDER WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN IN FOSTER CARE IN ORDER 8 TΟ DISCUSS COMMON EXPERIENCES, IDEAS 9 AND CONCERNS. THE LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, AUTHORIZED AGENCIES SERVING ADOLESCENTS IN 10 FOSTER CARE, THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, AND CONTRACTORS OF THE 11 RECRUIT APPROPRIATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE YOUTH IN 12 OFFICE MAY YOUTH 13 PROGRESS ADVISORY BOARD AND REGIONAL TEAMS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

2. THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES 14 SHALL FACILITATE THE FORMATION OF REGIONAL YOUTH IN PROGRESS TEAMS AND ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING 15 16 AN ADULT MENTOR FOR EACH YOUTH TEAM MEMBER. THE REGIONAL YOUTH IN 17 PROGRESS TEAMS AND ADULT MENTORS SHALL MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS AND SHALL 18 CONDUCT PERIODIC REGIONAL FORUMS FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH TO SPEAK OUT ON 19 ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ADOLESCENTS IN FOSTER CARE.

3. THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS STATEWIDE ADVISORY 20 BOARD, SHALL INCLUDE Α THE REGIONAL TEAMS THAT WILL ADVISE THE OFFICE OF 21 REPRESENTATIVE FROM 22 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ON 23 ISSUES RELATING TO FOSTER CARE. IN EACH OF THE SIX OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES REGIONS THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS REGIONAL TEAM OR TEAMS 24 TO FOUR YOUTH MEMBERS AND THEIR ADULT MENTORS TO 25 SHALL NOMINATE UP

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

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PARTICIPATE IN THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN PROGRESS ADVISORY BOARD. IN ADDI-1 TION, FOUR YOUTH CURRENTLY OR FORMERLY PLACED WITH THE OFFICE OF CHIL-2 3 DREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITIES 4 FOR YOUTH SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN 5 PROGRESS ADVISORY BOARD, TO BE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD'S MEMBER-SHIP. THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN PROGRESS ADVISORY BOARD SHALL HAVE UP TO 6 7 TWENTY-EIGHT YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AND SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES EACH 8 YEAR.

9 4. (A) THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN PROGRESS BOARD MAY ISSUE AN ANNUAL 10 REPORT WITH ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ADOLESCENTS IN FOSTER CARE. THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE OTHER INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES 11 12 OF THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS BOARD. THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN 13 14 PROGRESS BOARD, INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT. SUCH REPORTS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO: 15 THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AND THE MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND 16 17 FAMILIES. THE CONTENTS OF THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE 18 19 SOLELY THE WORK PRODUCT OF THE YOUTH IN PROGRESS BOARD AND ITS MEMBERS, AND SHALL NOT BE REVISED OR EDITED BY THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY 20 21 SERVICES.

22 (B) AT LEAST SIXTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF 23 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FINAL APPROVAL OF RULES AND REGULATIONS 24 PERTAINING TO FOSTER CARE OR SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS WHO ARE OR HAVE 25 BEEN IN FOSTER CARE, OTHER THAN EMERGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS, THE 26 COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT THE PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS TO THE STATEWIDE YOUTH IN PROGRESS ADVISORY BOARD FOR REVIEW. THE STATEWIDE 27 YOUTH IN PROGRESS BOARD MAY REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO THE 28 29 COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES WITHIN SIXTY DAYS. 30

31 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall 32 have become a law.