S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

March 24, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, the executive law and the public health law, in relation to a training program for firefighters, police officers and emergency medical services personnel on handling emergency situations involving individuals with autism spectrum disorder

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 16.39 to read as follows:

S 16.39 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TRAINING; FIRST RESPONDERS.

THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES, SHALL DEVELOP A TRAINING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION AND INFORMATION TO FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL ON APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE TECHNIQUES FOR HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND ON RECOGNIZING THE BEHAVIORAL SYMPTOMS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS. SUCH TRAINING SHALL ALSO INCLUDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSIONER.

S 2. Section 156 of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

22. COORDINATE AND PROVIDE THE TRAINING PROGRAM RELATING TO HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 16.39 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS, BOTH PAID AND VOLUNTEER.

S 3. Section 837-a of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

10. COORDINATE AND PROVIDE THE TRAINING PROGRAM RELATING TO HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 16.39 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW TO ALL POLICE OFFICERS.

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

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S 4. Section 3011 of the public health law is amended by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:

12. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE AND PROVIDE THE TRAINING PROGRAM RELATING TO HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 16.39 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW TO ALL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FIRST RESPONDERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATORS.

S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.