

2206--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 22, 2015

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Introduced by Sens. LARKIN, ADDABBO, CARLUCCI, PANEPINTO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities -- recommitted to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a peer support program for veterans

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

1     Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section  
2     7.42 to read as follows:  
3     S 7.42 PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.  
4     (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION THE TERM "PEER SUPPORT SERVICES"  
5     SHALL MEAN ANY SERVICE DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE USED IN THE TREATMENT  
6     AND RECOVERY OF MENTAL ILLNESS, ALCOHOL ABUSE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND/OR  
7     CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE THAT IS DELIVERED BY A CERTIFIED PEER COUNSELOR; AND  
8     THE TERM "CERTIFIED PEER COUNSELOR" SHALL MEAN AN INDIVIDUAL, WHO HAS  
9     APPLIED TO AND BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE OFFICE, WITH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS  
10    A MENTAL HEALTH RECIPIENT AND/OR AN INDIVIDUAL IN RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOL  
11    ABUSE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND/OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE, WHO HAS SERVED IN  
12    THE ACTIVE MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS BEEN  
13    RELEASED FROM SUCH SERVICE OTHERWISE THAN BY DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE AND  
14    AS DOCUMENTED BY HIS OR HER DISCHARGE PAPERS OR WHO HAS BEEN FURLOUGHED  
15    TO THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO  
16    HAS TRAINING, CREDENTIALS OR EXPERIENCE RECOGNIZED BY THE OFFICE.  
17    (B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE  
18    COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF ALCOHOLISM AND  
19    SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, AND THE STATE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF  
20    VETERANS' AFFAIRS SHALL DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH A MINIMUM OF TWO REGIONAL  
21    PEER SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE

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

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1 PEER SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, PEER  
2 COUNSELING FOR MENTAL ILLNESS INCLUDING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER,  
3 ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING, INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO  
4 SERVICES, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES, AND WHERE APPLICABLE, SPECIALIZED  
5 SERVICES FOR FEMALE VETERANS.

6 (C) THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE  
7 OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES AND THE STATE DIRECTOR  
8 OF THE DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS SHALL FOSTER PROGRAMS FOR THE  
9 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES  
10 SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A PROCESS OF  
11 ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR AND ISSUING CREDENTIALS FOR CERTIFIED PEER  
12 COUNSELORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

13 1. THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFIED  
14 PEER COUNSELORS IN ALL PHASES OF DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO VETERANS WHO  
15 ARE SUFFERING FROM ANY OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING: MENTAL  
16 ILLNESS, ALCOHOL ABUSE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND/OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE THAT  
17 SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, COMPLETION OF APPROVED COURSES OF  
18 STUDY OR EQUIVALENT ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING  
19 AND/OR ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING; AND

20 2. THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
21 FOR AND ISSUING CREDENTIALS TO CERTIFIED PEER COUNSELORS WHO MEET MINI-  
22 MUM QUALIFICATIONS, AND SHALL FURTHER ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO SUSPEND,  
23 REVOKE, OR ANNUL SUCH CREDENTIALS FOR GOOD CAUSE.

24 S 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
25 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the  
26 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary  
27 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized  
28 and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.