

7495

I N S E N A T E

May 5, 2016

Introduced by Sen. AKSHAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the executive law, in relation to requiring legislative approval for the closure of certain office of mental health, office of people with developmental disabilities or office of children and family services facilities and institutions

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (e) of section 7.17 of the mental hygiene law,  
2 as amended by chapter 723 of the laws of 1993, paragraph 1 as amended by  
3 chapter 170 of the laws of 1994, paragraph 3 as amended by chapter 83 of  
4 the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

5 (e) In the event that the plan for state and local mental health  
6 services, developed in accordance with subdivision (b) of this section,  
7 determines that significant service reductions are anticipated for a  
8 particular state-operated hospital or its catchment area, or a state-op-  
9 erated research institute, the commissioner shall take the following  
10 actions[, provided nothing in this subdivision shall create a basis for  
11 enjoining any otherwise lawful service reductions]:

12 1. SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED  
13 SIXTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE THE OFFICE IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF ANY  
14 FACILITY OR INSTITUTION. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE  
15 PROPOSED CLOSURE. THE LEGISLATURE MAY REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
16 OR DATA THAT IT DEEMS NECESSARY IN SUCH REPORT. IF THE LEGISLATURE, OR  
17 THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES THEREOF, UPON REVIEW OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED  
18 TO IT BY THE OFFICE, FINDS THAT THE PROPOSED CLOSURE IS NOT JUSTIFIED  
19 THEN CLOSURE SHALL NOT OCCUR UNTIL APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF EACH  
20 HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

21 2. confer with the department of civil service, the governor's office  
22 of employee relations and any other state agency to develop strategies  
23 which attempt to minimize the impact on the state workforce by providing  
24 assistance in obtaining state employment in state-operated community-

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

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1 based services or other employment opportunities, and to develop strate-  
2 gies for the development of necessary retraining and redeployment  
3 programs. In planning such strategies, the commissioner shall provide  
4 for the participation of the representatives of the employee labor  
5 organizations and for the participation of managerial and confidential  
6 employees to ensure continuity of employment;

7 [2.] 3. consult with the department of economic development and any  
8 other appropriate state agencies to develop strategies which attempt to  
9 minimize the impact of such significant service reductions on the local  
10 and regional economies;

11 [3.] 4. provide for a mechanism which may reasonably be expected to  
12 provide notice to local governments, community organizations, employee  
13 labor organizations, managerial and confidential employees, consumer and  
14 advocacy groups of the potential for significant service reductions at  
15 such state-operated hospitals and state-operated research institutes at  
16 least twelve months prior to commencing such service reduction,  
17 provided, however, that this requirement shall be deemed satisfied with  
18 respect to reductions at Central Islip Psychiatric Center, Gowanda  
19 Psychiatric Center, Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center, Kings Park Psychi-  
20 atric Center, Willard Psychiatric Center and Manhattan Children's  
21 Psychiatric Center; and

22 [4.] 5. consult with the office of general services and any other  
23 appropriate state agency in developing a mechanism for determining  
24 alternative uses for land and buildings to be vacated by the office of  
25 mental health. Such a mechanism should include a review of other  
26 programs or state agencies that could feasibly expand their operations  
27 onto a state-operated hospital campus and are compatible with health,  
28 safety and programmatic needs of patients served in such facilities.

29 S 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.18  
30 to read as follows:

31 S 13.18 CLOSURE OF FACILITIES.

32 THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE AT  
33 LEAST THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE THE OFFICE IS  
34 SEEKING CLOSURE OF ANY FACILITY OR INSTITUTION. SUCH REPORT SHALL  
35 INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED CLOSURE. THE LEGISLATURE MAY  
36 REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR DATA THAT IT DEEMS NECESSARY IN  
37 SUCH REPORT. IF THE LEGISLATURE, OR THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES THEREOF,  
38 UPON REVIEW OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE OFFICE, FINDS THAT THE  
39 PROPOSED CLOSURE IS NOT JUSTIFIED THEN CLOSURE SHALL NOT OCCUR UNTIL  
40 APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

41 S 3. Subdivision 15 of section 501 of the executive law, as amended by  
42 section 1 of part H of chapter 58 of the laws of 2006, is amended to  
43 read as follows:

44 15. In the event that the office of children and family services  
45 determines that significant service reductions, public employee staffing  
46 reductions and/or the transfer of operations to a private or not-for-  
47 profit entity are anticipated in the office of children and family  
48 services long term planning process or for a particular facility in a  
49 future year, to take the following actions:

50 (a) SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED  
51 SIXTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
52 SERVICES IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF ANY SECURE OR LIMITED SECURE FACILITY.  
53 SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED CLOSURE. THE  
54 LEGISLATURE MAY REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR DATA THAT IT DEEMS  
55 NECESSARY IN SUCH REPORT. IF THE LEGISLATURE, OR THE APPROPRIATE COMMIT-  
56 TEES THEREOF, UPON REVIEW OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE OFFICE OF

1 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, FINDS THAT THE PROPOSED CLOSURE IS NOT  
2 JUSTIFIED THEN CLOSURE SHALL NOT OCCUR UNTIL APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE  
3 OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 (B) confer with the department of civil service, the governor's office  
5 of employee relations and any other state agency to develop strategies  
6 which attempt to minimize the impact on the state workforce by providing  
7 assistance in obtaining state employment in state-operated community-  
8 based services or other employment opportunities, and to develop strate-  
9 gies for the development of necessary retraining and redeployment  
10 programs. In planning such strategies, the commissioner of the office of  
11 children and family services shall provide for the participation of the  
12 representatives of the employee labor organizations and for the partic-  
13 ipation of managerial and confidential employees to ensure continuity of  
14 employment;

15 [(b)] (C) consult with the department of economic development and any  
16 other appropriate state agencies to develop strategies which attempt to  
17 minimize the impact of such significant service reductions, public  
18 employee staffing reductions and/or the transfer of operations to a  
19 private or not-for-profit entity on the local and regional economies;

20 [(c)] (D) provide for a mechanism which may reasonably be expected to  
21 provide notice to local governments, community organizations, employee  
22 labor organizations, managerial and confidential employees, consumer and  
23 advocacy groups of the potential for significant service reductions,  
24 public employee staffing reductions and/or the transfer of operations to  
25 a private or not-for-profit entity at such state-operated facilities, at  
26 least twelve months prior to commencing such service reduction; and

27 [(d)] (E) consult with the office of general services and any other  
28 appropriate state agency in developing a mechanism for determining  
29 alternative uses for land and buildings to be vacated by the office of  
30 children and family services. Such a mechanism should include a review  
31 of other programs or state agencies that could feasibly expand their  
32 operations onto a state-operated campus and are compatible with health,  
33 safety and programmatic needs of persons served in such facilities.

34 S 4. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part  
35 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to  
36 be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the  
37 remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause,  
38 sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the  
39 controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

40 S 5. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
41 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
42 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
43 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
44 on or before such effective date.