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

5141--B

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 12, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA, RUSSELL, MILLER, CROUCH, ZEBROWSKI, GUNTHER, ABINANTI, SCHIMEL, GRAF, MONTESANO, DUPREY, FINCH, McDONALD, FAHY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CLARK, GALEF, KEARNS, MOSLEY, RIVERA, SIMON, SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to vocational rehabilitation services for enhancing communication support

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 1004-c to read as follows:

S 1004-C. COMMUNICATION SUPPORT SERVICES. 1. THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT SERVICES AS A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE AS DEFINED BY PARAGRAPH A OF SUBDIVISION FIVE OF SECTION ONE THOUSAND TWO OF THIS ARTICLE. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO SHALL HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A PRAGMATIC LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT OR WHOSE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS MAY REASONABLY BENEFIT FROM AN IMPROVED CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE SHALL QUALIFY FOR COMMUNICATION SUPPORT SERVICES. ALL REFERRALS MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE TO INDIVIDUALS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, REGISTERED OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED UNDER EXISTING STATE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER OR DEFINE SCOPE OF PRACTICE UNDER EXISTING STATE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

2. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "COMMUNICATION SUPPORT SERVICES" SHALL MEAN TREATMENT OR SERVICES THAT FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION-RELATED SKILLS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DIALOGUE STRATEGIES FOR:

(I) INITIATING AND EXITING COMMUNICATION OF INTENT;

(II) TOPIC MAINTENANCE;

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

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(III) DEFUSING HOSTILE SITUATIONS THAT RESULT FROM INEFFECTIVE ATTEMPTS AT INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATION;

(IV) PREPARING, STRATEGIZING, AND ORGANIZING INFORMATION FOR WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE; AND

(V) PREPARING FOR UPCOMING INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION SITUATIONS.

S 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017.