

5791

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

June 3, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- (at request of the State Education Department) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to access to patient or client records in the investigation and prosecution of professional licensing and misconduct proceedings

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 8 of section 6506 of the education law, as  
2     amended by chapter 866 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     (8) Designate a professional conduct officer, who shall be the chief  
5     administrative officer of the office of the professions, or his designee,  
6     in connection with professional licensing and misconduct proceedings  
7     and criminal matters, such officer to be empowered to issue subpoenas  
8     and administer oaths in connection with such proceedings.  
9     NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, SAID PROFESSIONAL  
10    CONDUCT OFFICER, OR HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVES, MAY EXAMINE AND OBTAIN  
11    RECORDS OF PATIENTS OR CLIENTS IN ANY INVESTIGATION OR PROCEEDING BY THE  
12    DEPARTMENT ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ITS AUTHORIZATION. UNLESS EXPRESS  
13    CONSENT IS OBTAINED FROM THE PATIENT OR CLIENT, ANY INFORMATION SO  
14    OBTAINED SHALL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND SHALL NOT BE FURTHER DISCLOSED EXCEPT  
15    TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER FUNCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND  
16    THE NAME OF THE PATIENT OR CLIENT MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
17    OR ITS EMPLOYEES AT ANY STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS UNLESS THE PATIENT OR  
18    CLIENT HAS EXPRESSLY CONSENTED. ANY OTHER USE OR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION  
19    FROM SUCH RECORDS BY ANY PERSON BY ANY MEANS, UNLESS IT IS PURSUANT  
20    TO A VALID COURT ORDER OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, SHALL BE  
21    PROHIBITED;  
22    S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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