

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sen. ROBACH -- 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, in relation to patients interred at state mental health hospital cemeteries

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 33.27 to read as follows:

3 S 33.27 RELEASE OF CERTAIN PATIENTS' NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH.

4 (A) TO MARK HEADSTONES OR OTHERWISE MEMORIALIZE PATIENTS INTERRED AT  
5 STATE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL CEMETERIES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE  
6 AVAILABLE THE NAME, DATE OF BIRTH AND DATE OF DEATH OF PATIENTS BURIED  
7 IN STATE MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL CEMETERIES FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE DEATH  
8 OF A PATIENT.

9 (B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "STATE MENTAL HEALTH  
10 HOSPITALS" SHALL MEAN ANY STATE-FUNDED INSTITUTION TO CARE FOR AND HELP  
11 TREAT THE MENTALLY ILL OR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED IN NEW YORK STATE.  
12 SUCH TERM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO FORMER ASYLUMS FOR THE  
13 INSANE, SUCH AS THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, UTICA STATE HOSPITAL,  
14 WILLARD ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, WILLARD STATE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK STATE  
15 INEBRIATE ASYLUM, BINGHAMTON ASYLUM FOR THE CHRONIC INSANE, BINGHAMTON  
16 STATE HOSPITAL, BUFFALO STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, NEW YORK STATE  
17 ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, BUFFALO STATE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK STATE ASYLUM FOR  
18 IDIOTS AND THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS IN ALBANY.

19 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
20 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
21 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
22 tation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be made on or  
23 before such date.

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

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