STATE OF NEW YORK

9566

IN ASSEMBLY

January 23, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI, LENTOL, O'DONNELL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to services for victims of human trafficking

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 483-aa of the social services law is amended by adding two new subdivisions (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) "Short-term safe house" means a residential facility operated by a not-for-profit agency with experience in providing services to human trafficking victims, that provides emergency shelter, services and care to human trafficking victims including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, counseling and appropriate crisis intervention services and promotes a safe living environment.

(d) "Long-term safe house" means a residential facility operated by a not-for-profit agency with experience in providing services to human trafficking victims, that provides shelter for human trafficking victims and promotes a safe living environment. In addition, a long-term safe house shall provide or assist with securing necessary services for such human trafficking victims either through direct provision of services, or through written agreements with other community and public agencies for the provision of services including but not limited to housing, assessment, case management, medical care, legal, mental health and substance use disorder services. Such safe house, in accordance with a service plan for such human trafficking victim, shall also provide counseling and therapeutic services, educational services including life skills services, job training and placement and planning services to successfully transition such person back into the community.

§ 2. Subdivision (b) of section 483-bb of the social services law, as added by chapter 74 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

(b) [~~In providing such assistance, the~~] **The** office of temporary and disability assistance [~~may~~] **shall** enter into contracts with non-government organizations for providing services to [~~pre-certified~~] victims of human trafficking as defined in subdivision [~~(b)~~] **(a)** of section four

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

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hundred eighty-three-aa of this article[~~, insofar as funds are available for that purpose~~]. Such services [~~may~~] **shall be culturally competent, to the extent practicable, and shall** include, but are not limited to, case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, drug addiction screening and treatment, language interpretation and translation services, English language instruction, job training and placement assistance, post-employment services for job retention, and services to assist the individual and any of his or her family members to establish a permanent residence in New York state or the United States. **Such services shall also include appropriate voluntary placement in a short-term and/or long-term safe house, as such terms are defined under subdivision (c) or (d) of section four hundred eighty-three-aa of this article. Placement in a safe house shall be available from the initial point of contact between the human trafficking victim and any of the following: law enforcement; a local social services district; or a social or legal services provider. Nothing in this article shall prevent placement in a safe house of a human trafficking victim who is: (1) involved in a proceeding which has not reached final disposition, for the duration of such proceeding; (2) not involved in a pending proceeding; or (3) participating in a program for victims of domestic violence and has been identified as a victim of human trafficking.** Nothing in this [~~section~~] **article** shall preclude the office of temporary and disability assistance, or any local social services district, from providing human trafficking victims who are United States citizens or human trafficking victims who meet the criteria pursuant to section one hundred twenty-two of this chapter with any benefits or services for which they otherwise may be eligible.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.