

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 hundred eighty-three-aa of this article[~~, insofar as funds are available~~
2 ~~for that purpose~~]. Such services [~~may~~] shall be culturally competent, to
3 the extent practicable, and shall include, but are not limited to, case
4 management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health
5 counseling, drug addiction screening and treatment, language interpreta-
6 tion and translation services, English language instruction, job train-
7 ing and placement assistance, post-employment services for job
8 retention, and services to assist the individual and any of his or her
9 family members to establish a permanent residence in New York state or
10 the United States. Such services shall also include appropriate volun-
11 tary placement in a short-term and/or long-term safe house, as such
12 terms are defined under subdivision (c) or (d) of section four hundred
13 eighty-three-aa of this article. Placement in a safe house shall be
14 available from the initial point of contact between the human traffick-
15 ing victim and any of the following: law enforcement; a local social
16 services district; or a social or legal services provider. Nothing in
17 this article shall prevent placement in a safe house of a human traf-
18 ficking victim who is: (1) involved in a proceeding which has not
19 reached final disposition, for the duration of such proceeding; (2) not
20 involved in a pending proceeding; or (3) participating in a program for
21 victims of domestic violence and has been identified as a victim of
22 human trafficking. Nothing in this [~~section~~] article shall preclude the
23 office of temporary and disability assistance, or any local social
24 services district, from providing human trafficking victims who are
25 United States citizens or human trafficking victims who meet the crite-
26 ria pursuant to section one hundred twenty-two of this chapter with any
27 benefits or services for which they otherwise may be eligible.
28 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after
29 it shall have become a law.