STATE OF NEW YORK

5831

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 2, 2017

Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing a public awareness and education campaign for addiction; treatment options; reducing the stigma of seeking help for addiction; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3309-b to read as follows:

§ 3309-b. Public awareness campaign for substance addiction. There is hereby established within the department an addiction awareness program to educate the public of addiction as a serious public health issue, and to offer remedies for such health issue through educational advertisements, including information such as, but not limited to, (1) treatment options, (2) reducing the stigma of seeking help for addiction, and (3) acknowledging addiction as a health issue (chemical related disorder), rather than a lifestyle issue (choice).

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-bb to read as follows:

§ 99-bb. Addiction awareness fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance a fund to be known as the "addiction awareness fund".

2. The fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for its purpose, and all monies required by any provision of law to be paid into or credited to such fund. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the department of health from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

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

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3. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of health.

§ 3. The sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the addiction awareness fund, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of health in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.