STATE OF NEW YORK

7825

IN SENATE

March 1, 2018

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

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to directing the office for the aging to offer a digital literacy training program at no cost to all New York state residents over the age of 55

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bolstering Online Opportunity, Modernizing Economic Readiness, and Teaching the Elderly Computers Act" or the "BOOMER TEC Act".

§ 2. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 224 to read as follows:

§ 224. Digital literacy training program. 1. The office is hereby authorized and directed to create a digital literacy training program. The office shall offer the digital literacy training program at no cost to all New York residents over the age of fifty-five. The digital literacy training program shall be based on the curriculum developed by the office and the department of education under subdivision two of this section. One class shall be offered annually in each county or more frequently upon demonstration of high demand.

2. (a) Within one year of the effective date of this section, the office shall, in consultation with the department of education, develop a curriculum for the digital literacy training program. Such curriculum shall be tailored for senior citizens with no or minimal computer experience. The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

(i) basic word processing and printing skills;

(ii) basic internet navigation skills; and

(iii) basic email skills.

(b) The curriculum shall enable a senior citizen upon completion of the digital literacy training program to complete tasks including, but not limited to:

(i) opening a word processor, typing a basic letter, and printing a document;

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

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(ii) opening an internet browser, visiting a webpage when given an address or URL, and using a search engine; and

(iii) creating, accessing, and using an email account.

3. When the office is offering a digital literacy training program in a county, the office shall:

(a) issue a media advisory to local media outlets within the county no less than one week before the digital literacy training program is offered;

(b) post written posters, flyers, or brochures in the offices of the office within the county no less than one month before the digital literacy training program is offered;

(c) post on the calendar on the office's website no less than sixty days before the digital literacy training program is to be offered; and

(d) send notification to the following officials no less than sixty days before the digital literacy training program is to be offered:

(i) all town supervisors or mayors within the county where a class is being offered; and

(ii) all state legislators representing the county where a class is being offered.

4. The office shall generate a report on the digital literacy training program. The report shall be submitted no later than January fifteenth each year to the chairs of the senate and assembly committees on aging. This report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information from the previous calendar year:

(a) attendance data for each class offered;

(b) qualitative analysis of the program by instructors; and

(c) relevant financial and budgetary information.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.