STATE OF NEW YORK

8767

IN SENATE

May 15, 2018

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to providing rent subsidies to individuals living with roommates

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 5 of section 409-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 339 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, where a social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is the primary factor preventing the discharge of a child or children from foster care including, but not limited to, children with the goal of discharge to independent living, preventive services shall include, in addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance shall not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, and shall be considered a special grant. **Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy to live with roommates.** The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive services.

§ 2. Subdivision 7 of section 409-a of the social services law, as added by chapter 83 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is a factor that may cause the entry of a child or children into foster care and the family has at least one service need other than lack of adequate housing, preventive services may include, in addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance

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

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shall not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, and shall be considered a special grant. **Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy to live with roommates.** The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive services.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.