

# STATE OF NEW YORK

249--A

Cal. No. 171

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 5, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA, ABINANTI, SEPULVEDA, COLTON, MOSLEY, MONTESANO, COOK, ORTIZ, TITONE, BENEDETTO, BLAKE, RICHARDSON, STECK, STIRPE, ZEBROWSKI, LENTOL, JENNE, BARRETT, GUNTHER, RAMOS, PALMESANO, TITUS, WEPRIN, JAFFEE, WOERNER, MURRAY, HYNDMAN, FAHY, M. G. MILLER, BARRON, McDONALD, BRAUNSTEIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ABBATE, CROUCH, ENGLEBRIGHT, GALEF, McDONOUGH, RAIA, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- reference changed to the Committee on Mental Health -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- advanced to a third reading, passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to providing for identification cards for individuals with autism spectrum disorder

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

- 1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section  
2 13.43 to read as follows:  
3 § 13.43 Autism spectrum disorder card.  
4 (a) The commissioner shall develop an identification card denoting  
5 that a person has been medically diagnosed with an autism spectrum  
6 disorder. Such identification card may be presented to law enforcement,  
7 firefighters and emergency medical services personnel as necessary.  
8 (b) Upon the request of a person with an autism spectrum disorder, or  
9 the guardian or caregiver of such person, the office shall issue such  
10 autism spectrum disorder card in accordance with eligibility and  
11 documentation criteria established by the office for a fee not to exceed  
12 five dollars.  
13 (c) The front of such card shall indicate that it has been issued by  
14 the office pursuant to this section and shall include:  
15 (1) the card bearer's name;

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

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1 (2) the card bearer's address;

2 (3) the card bearer's date of birth; and

3 (4) the following statement: "I HAVE AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. I  
4 MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING AND FOLLOWING YOUR DIRECTIONS OR MAY  
5 BECOME UNABLE TO RESPOND. I MAY BECOME PHYSICALLY AGITATED IF YOU PROMPT  
6 ME VERBALLY OR TOUCH ME OR MOVE TOO CLOSE TO ME. AUTISM IS NOT AN EXCUSE  
7 FOR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR. I AM NOT INTENTIONALLY REFUSING TO COOPERATE. I  
8 MAY NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THIS CARD."

9 (d) The back of such card shall include:

10 (1) at the card bearer's discretion, the name and phone number of an  
11 individual designated by such card bearer to be contacted in case of  
12 emergency; and

13 (2) a designated space where such card bearer may include any addi-  
14 tional information.

15 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
16 it shall have become a law.