3197--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

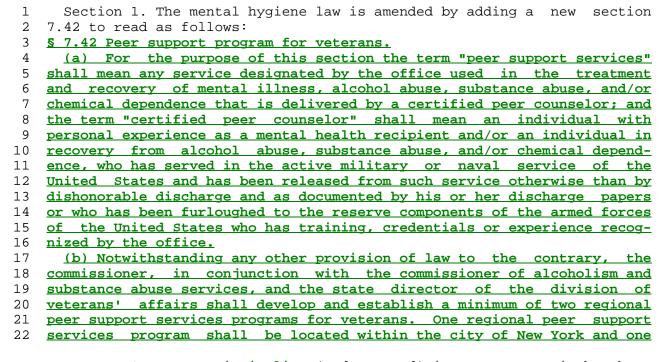
IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ, JENNE, BARRETT, CRESPO, DenDEKKER, OTIS, SKOUFIS, MALLIOTAKIS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a peer support program for veterans

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



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

LBD03984-03-7

A. 3197--A

2

regional peer support services program shall be located in upstate New 1 2 York outside of the city of New York or Long Island. Services provided 3 by the peer support services program shall include, but not be limited to, peer counseling for mental illness including post-traumatic stress 4 5 disorder, alcohol and substance abuse counseling, information on access б to services, family support services, and where applicable, specialized 7 services for female veterans. (c) The commissioner, in conjunction with the commissioner of the 8 office of alcoholism and substance abuse services and the state director 9 of the division of veterans' affairs shall foster programs for the 10 11 training and development of persons capable of providing the services set forth in this section, including, but not limited to, a process of 12 13 issuing, either directly or through contract, credentials for certified 14 peer counselors in accordance with the following: 15 1. The office shall establish minimum qualifications for certified 16 peer counselors in all phases of delivery of services to veterans who 17 are suffering from any or a combination of the following: mental illness, alcohol abuse, substance abuse, and/or chemical dependence that 18 19 shall include, but not be limited to, completion of approved courses of 20 study or equivalent on-the-job experience in mental health counseling 21 and/or alcoholism and substance abuse counseling; and 22 2. The office shall establish procedures for issuing, directly or through contract, credentials to certified peer counselors who meet minimum qualifications, and shall further establish procedures to 23 24 25 suspend, revoke, or annul such credentials for good cause. 26 This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall § 2. 27 have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary 28 29 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date. 30