

STATE OF NEW YORK

474--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, GALEF -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. RIVERA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to allowing social services districts to offer participants in public assistance employment programs an option to complete a course in financial literacy and personal finance

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 1 of section 336 of the social
2 services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the
3 laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

4 (f) job search and job readiness assistance, provided that job search
5 is an active and continuing effort to secure employment configured by
6 the local social services official; and such social services district
7 may work in cooperation with the department of labor to provide work-
8 force guidance and information in accordance with section ten-c of the
9 labor law;

10 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 336-a of the social services law, as
11 amended by section 4 of part J of chapter 58 of the laws of 2014, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 1. Social services districts shall make available vocational educa-
14 tional training and educational activities. Such activities may include
15 but need not be limited to, high school education or education designed
16 to prepare a participant for a high school equivalency certificate,
17 basic and remedial education, education in English proficiency, educa-
18 tion or a course of instruction in financial literacy and personal
19 finance that includes instruction on household cash management tech-
20 niques, career advice to obtain a well paying and secure job, using
21 checking and savings accounts, obtaining and utilizing short and long

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

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1 term credit, securing a loan or other long term financing arrangement
2 for high cost items, participation in a higher education course of
3 instruction or trade school, and no more than a total of four years of
4 post-secondary education (or the part-time equivalent). Educational
5 activities pursuant to this section may be offered with any of the
6 following providers which meet the performance or assessment standards
7 established in regulations by the commissioner for such providers: a
8 community college, licensed trade school, registered business school, or
9 a two-year or four-year college; provided, however, that such post-sec-
10 ondary education must be necessary to the attainment of the partic-
11 ipant's individual employment goal as set forth in the employability
12 plan and such goal must relate directly to obtaining useful employment
13 in a recognized occupation. When making any assignment to any educa-
14 tional activity pursuant to this subdivision, such assignment shall be
15 permitted only to the extent that such assignment is consistent with the
16 individual's assessment and employment plan goals in accordance with
17 sections three hundred thirty-five and three hundred thirty-five-a of
18 this title and shall require that the individual maintains satisfactory
19 academic progress and hourly participation is documented consistent with
20 federal and state requirements. For purposes of this provision "satis-
21 factory academic progress" shall mean having a cumulative C average, or
22 its equivalent, as determined by the academic institution. The require-
23 ment to maintain satisfactory academic progress may be waived if done so
24 by the academic institution and the social services district based on
25 undue hardship caused by an event such as a personal injury or illness
26 of the student, the death of a relative of the student or other exten-
27 uating circumstances. Any enrollment in post-secondary education beyond
28 a twelve month period must be combined with no less than twenty hours of
29 participation averaged weekly in paid employment or work activities or
30 community service when paid employment is not available.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
32 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the commissioner of
33 temporary and disability assistance is immediately authorized and
34 directed to promulgate, amend and/or repeal any rules and regulations
35 that may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its
36 effective date.