

STATE OF NEW YORK

9019

IN ASSEMBLY

January 12, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to impact studies on infectious diseases

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 7.48 to read as follows:
3 § 7.48 Infectious disease and blood-borne pathogen impact study.
4 (a) The office, in conjunction with the commissioner of health, shall
5 issue a report examining the mental health impacts of infectious
6 diseases and blood-borne pathogens on mental illness rates in endemic
7 areas of the state. Such report shall include but not be limited to:
8 (1) Considerations of how Lyme, tick-borne illnesses, and other blood-
9 borne pathogens or vector-borne diseases may have correlations with
10 mental illness in infected individuals;
11 (2) Populations at-risk including those individuals with occupations
12 outdoors and/or increased exposure to vectors;
13 (3) Diagnostic indicators of mental illness that can be used as guid-
14 ance for healthcare providers and mental health practitioners;
15 (4) Historical considerations of infection rates and mental illness
16 indicators that may have gone undiagnosed or misdiagnosed in endemic
17 areas; and
18 (5) Recommendations for intervention and coordinated care for individ-
19 uals who exhibit mental illness symptoms as well as those who have both
20 physical and mental health indicators.
21 (b) Such report shall be submitted to the temporary president of the
22 senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than October first, two
23 thousand nineteen. The office and the commissioner of health may engage
24 stakeholders in the compilation of the report, including but not limited
25 to, medical research institutions, health care practitioners, mental
26 health providers, county and local government, and advocates.
27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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