STATE OF NEW YORK

2565

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2017

Introduced by Sen. HELMING -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

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:

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 13.43 to read as follows:

§ 13.43 Autism spectrum disorder card.

(a) The commissioner shall develop an identification card denoting that a person has been medically diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Such identification card may be presented to law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel as necessary.

(b) Upon the request of a person with an autism spectrum disorder, or the guardian or caregiver of such person, the office shall issue such autism spectrum disorder card in accordance with eligibility and documentation criteria established by the office for a fee not to exceed five dollars.

(c) The front of such card shall indicate that it has been issued by the office pursuant to this section and shall include:

(1) the card bearer's name;

(2) the card bearer's address;

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

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

(d) The back of such card shall include:

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

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

(2) a designated space where such card bearer may include any additional information.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.