

STATE OF NEW YORK

5534

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 6, 2017

Introduced by Sen. HAMILTON -- 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 establishing the autism and African American, Latino and Asian children's advisory council

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 16.39 to read as follows:

3 § 16.39 Autism and African American, Latino and Asian children's advisory council.
4

5 (a) There shall be established within the office of mental health, a
6 council on autism and African American, Latino and Asian children to
7 consist of seventeen members: eight members shall be appointed by the
8 governor with consultation by the office of mental health; three members
9 shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member shall be
10 appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; two members shall be
11 appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members shall be
12 appointed by the independent democratic conference leader of the senate;
13 and one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
14 The council members shall represent the diversity of the state and fifty
15 percent of appointed members shall be of either African American, Latino
16 or Asian descent.

17 (b) Duties of the council shall include, but not limited to:

18 (1) Facilitating the coordination of services and resources among
19 agencies involved in the delivery of services to African American, Latino
20 and Asian children with autism spectrum disorders;

21 (2) Monitoring the implementation of action plans developed by mental
22 health agencies via their five year action plans and yearly funding
23 priorities to ensure that African American, Latino and Asian children

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

LBD10844-02-7

1 with autism spectrum disorders are being adequately incorporated and
2 served; and

3 (3) Determine services, resources and policies that may further
4 address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and
5 provide them as per the required annual reports to the legislature and
6 the governor.

7 (c) The council shall prepare and submit an annual report, the first
8 of which shall be submitted no later than October first, two thousand
9 eighteen, to the governor and the legislature that recommends policies,
10 legislation, and funding needed to implement the action plans developed
11 in response to the need to address the late diagnosis and lack of access
12 by African American, Latino and Asian families with children with autism
13 spectrum disorders into the state's health care delivery system.

14 § 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
15 have become a law.