STATE OF NEW YORK

7171

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 3, 2018

Introduced by Sens. SERINO, HANNON, AMEDORE, AVELLA, HELMING, LITTLE, MARCHIONE, O'MARA, PHILLIPS, RITCHIE, SEWARD, TEDISCO, VALESKY -- 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 impact studies on infectious diseases

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 7.48 to read as follows:

§ 7.48 Infectious disease and blood-borne pathogen impact study.

(a) The office, in conjunction with the commissioner of health, shall issue a report examining the mental health impacts of infectious diseases and blood-borne pathogens on mental illness rates in endemic areas of the state. Such report shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Considerations of how Lyme, tick-borne illnesses, and other blood-borne pathogens or vector-borne diseases may have correlations with mental illness in infected individuals;

(2) Populations at-risk including those individuals with occupations outdoors and/or increased exposure to vectors;

(3) Diagnostic indicators of mental illness that can be used as guidance for healthcare providers and mental health practitioners;

(4) Historical considerations of infection rates and mental illness indicators that may have gone undiagnosed or misdiagnosed in endemic areas; and

(5) Recommendations for intervention and coordinated care for individuals who exhibit mental illness symptoms as well as those who have both physical and mental health indicators.

(b) Such report shall be submitted to the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than October first, two thousand nineteen. The office and the commissioner of health may engage stakeholders in the compilation of the report, including but not limited to, medical research institutions, health care practitioners, mental health providers, county and local government, and advocates.

§ 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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