

STATE OF NEW YORK

10482

IN ASSEMBLY

May 22, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Hevesi) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to the provision of
emergency shelter for victims and alleged victims of domestic violence
during a declaration of a state disaster emergency

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 131-u of the social services law,
2 as amended by section 3 of part J of chapter 56 of the laws of 2019, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 2. Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, during
5 the pendency of a declaration of a state disaster emergency as defined
6 by section twenty of the executive law that involves a disease outbreak,
7 local social services districts shall be required to provide emergency
8 shelter and services to victims and alleged victims of domestic violence
9 as defined in article six-A of this chapter. Such shelter shall be
10 provided in a residential program for victims of domestic violence
11 unless the residential program cannot ensure that each alleged victim or
12 victim and their minor children, if applicable, will be provided with
13 separate and private sleeping and restroom accommodations that meet any
14 safety standards recommended by the department of health during the
15 state disaster emergency. In the event the residential program cannot
16 meet such standards, the local social services district shall provide
17 the accommodations in a hotel or motel. In addition to providing shelter
18 and residential services, the local social services district shall be
19 responsible for providing access to testing for any individuals receiv-
20 ing services.

21 3. The department shall annually establish, subject to the approval of
22 the director of the budget, a daily rate of reimbursement for each resi-
23 dential program for victims of domestic violence, as defined in article
24 six-A of this chapter, certified by the department which provides emer-
25 gency shelter and services to persons eligible for such emergency shel-
26 ter and services pursuant to this section. A social services district
27 financially responsible for a victim of domestic violence shall reim-

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

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1 burse a residential program for victims of domestic violence for the
2 costs of emergency shelter and services provided to such victim at the
3 daily reimbursement rate established by the department reduced by any
4 other reimbursement available for such costs. Provided however, if emer-
5 gency shelter and services are provided in accordance with subdivision
6 two of this section, the state shall assume the full cost of the shelter
7 and services during the pendency of the state disaster emergency.

8 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 459-a of the social services law, as
9 amended by chapter 153 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 1. "Victim of domestic violence" means any person over the age of
12 sixteen, any married person or any parent accompanied by his or her
13 minor child or children in situations in which such person or such
14 person's child is a victim or an alleged victim of an act which would
15 constitute a violation of the penal law, including, but not limited to
16 acts constituting disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment,
17 sexual misconduct, forcible touching, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal
18 mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, assault,
19 attempted assault, attempted murder, criminal obstruction of breathing
20 or blood circulation, strangulation, identity theft, grand larceny or
21 coercion; and

22 (i) such act or acts have resulted in actual physical or emotional
23 injury or have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm
24 to such person or such person's child; and

25 (ii) such act or acts are or are alleged to have been committed by a
26 family or household member.

27 A person is an alleged victim if they have reported an act which would
28 constitute a violation of the penal law and it reasonably appears to the
29 residential program or local social services district that the person is
30 a victim of domestic violence.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.