

STATE OF NEW YORK

5936

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 20, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, ABBATE, RIVERA, GALEF -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. AUBRY, BENEDETTO, LUPARDO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Employees

AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to long term care counseling

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that
2 understanding and planning for one's own long term care needs is crit-
3 ically important and will continue to be important given demographic
4 changes, medical technology which prolongs life, the cost of long term
5 care and Medicaid's stake in its financing. Given these factors, the
6 workplace can play a significant educational and counseling role. Fami-
7 lies will continue to face long term care issues and it is incumbent
8 upon the state to aid state, municipal and other public employees to
9 understand long term care and its impact on an individual's health and
10 wellness as well as help those workers by providing information on where
11 to go to find assistance and support should a family member require long
12 term care services. The workplace can be instrumental in counseling at
13 the time of hiring, during employment and prior to retirement in provid-
14 ing educational resources to enable employees to understand their
15 options and encourage their own planning for long term care. This strat-
16 egy will help the individual and their family prepare for and understand
17 their risk should long term care services be required. This strategy
18 will also have a positive impact on state and local governments' Medi-
19 caid spending if individuals prepare for their long term care with tools
20 such as long term care insurance or reverse mortgages. These tools will
21 enable individuals to pay up front for their long-term care expenses and
22 delay application to receive such financing under the Medicaid program.

23 § 2. The civil service law is amended by adding a new section 172-a to
24 read as follows:

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

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1 § 172-a. Long term care counseling. 1. The provisions of this section
2 shall apply to individuals participating in the New York state and local
3 employees' retirement system, the New York city board of education
4 employees' retirement system, the New York state teachers' retirement
5 system, the New York city teachers' retirement system, the New York city
6 employees' retirement system, the New York state and local police and
7 fire retirement system, the New York city police pension fund, and the
8 New York city fire department pension fund. Each employee covered by
9 this section shall receive long term care counseling through their
10 employer within one month after being hired and within at least one
11 month prior to leaving employment. While employed, each employee shall
12 receive long term care counseling through their employer at least once
13 every five years.

14 2. Long term care counseling shall consist of but shall not be limited
15 to: information, education and advice dealing with long term care
16 issues and planning for long term care, including information about long
17 term care insurance benefits, the partnership plan, reverse mortgages,
18 the risks to one's finances absent long term care planning, tax benefits
19 of purchasing a long term care insurance policy, and programs and
20 services in the community related to long term care, including who to
21 call for assistance.

22 3. Each time an employee completes long term care counseling the
23 employee shall sign a form approved by the president indicating that
24 such employee has completed such counseling.

25 4. The president, in consultation with the superintendent of financial
26 services, the commissioner of health and the director of the state
27 office for the aging, shall develop additional long term care coun-
28 seling requirements and procedures as needed and in the event that new
29 products are developed in order to carry out this section.

30 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
31 have become a law. Effective immediately, any rule or regulation neces-
32 sary for the timely implementation of this act on such effective date
33 shall be promulgated on or before such date.