STATE OF NEW YORK

7533

IN SENATE

January 23, 2020

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the judiciary law, in relation to guardianship programs in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk

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

Section 1. The judiciary law is amended by adding a new section 216-a to read as follows:

§ 216-a. Guardianship programs; Nassau; Suffolk. 1. The chief administrator of the courts shall establish, in the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, court ordered guardianship programs to be located in each such county, which shall facilitate the use of geriatric social workers, retired senior volunteers and/or other non-attorneys, to serve as guardians appointed by a court under article eighty-one of the mental hygiene law, for incapacitated adults who lack financial resources and appropriate family supports. The programs shall be administered by the local courts within each respective county. The programs will provide guardianship services including visiting individuals on a regular basis, overseeing the implementation of a service plan and reporting to the courts.

2. The programs shall annually report to the legislature on the number of guardians appointed; costs associated with the program; and outcomes, including whether the person was able to remain in or return to the community and whether they were or became eligible for Medicaid.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

LBD14592-01-9