

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1436

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 15, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. EPSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to reporting of unaccompanied alien children by authorized agencies

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known as and may be cited as the "SCAR  
2 Act" or the "Separation of Children Accountability Response Act".

3 § 2. Section 372 of the social services law is amended by adding a new  
4 subdivision 9 to read as follows:

5 9. (a) An authorized agency as defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) of  
6 subdivision ten of section three hundred seventy-one of this title shall  
7 be required to report the following information to the commissioner  
8 every fifteen days:

9 (i) the number of unaccompanied alien children newly accepted into the  
10 authorized agency's care within the previous fifteen days under a  
11 contract, grant, or other agreement with the federal government;

12 (ii) the number of unaccompanied alien children released from the  
13 authorized agency's care within the previous fifteen days under a  
14 contract, grant, or other agreement with the federal government;

15 (iii) the number of unaccompanied alien children currently under the  
16 authorized agency's care under a contract, grant, or other agreement  
17 with the federal government at the time of the report;

18 (iv) the median and mean number of days unaccompanied alien children  
19 have spent in the care of the authorized agency under a contract, grant,  
20 or other agreement with the federal government and the total number of  
21 days spent in the custody of the federal government, if known;

22 (v) (1) the number of unaccompanied alien children in the authorized  
23 agency's care who were removed from the care or custody of their parents  
24 by an official, agent or agency of the federal government while entering  
25 or attempting to enter the United States or after having entered the

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

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1 United States, and (2) the number of unaccompanied alien children previ-  
2 ously removed from the custody of their parents and placed in the  
3 authorized agency's care that have been restored to the custody of their  
4 parents;

5 (vi) the number of unaccompanied alien children in the authorized  
6 agency's care whose primary language is not English, including the  
7 number of children speaking each language and the primary language  
8 spoken by such children;

9 (vii) the number of unaccompanied alien children placed into partic-  
10 ular types of care or custody including, but not limited to, transi-  
11 tional foster care, long-term foster care, secure care or staff-secure  
12 care; and

13 (viii) any other information the commissioner deems necessary.

14 (b) Reports to the commissioner shall not reveal identifying informa-  
15 tion about specific cases or individuals, and the commissioner shall  
16 ensure that all reporting requirements comply with federal laws, regu-  
17 lations, and policies. A person who knowingly submits false information  
18 required by this subdivision shall be guilty of offering a false instru-  
19 ment for filing under article one hundred seventy-five of the penal law.

20 (c) The commissioner may deny, revoke, or terminate an authorized  
21 agency's existing licensures or registrations for failure to provide  
22 such information in the prescribed time frame.

23 (d) The commissioner shall compile such data utilizing the office of  
24 children and family services' bureau of research, evaluation and  
25 performance analytics (hereinafter referred to as the "bureau"). The  
26 bureau, or its successor agency, shall supply such information to the  
27 commissioner and government officials upon request, and shall make such  
28 information available to the public in a manner accessible to the public  
29 in real-time.

30 (e) For purposes of this subdivision, the term "alien" is defined as  
31 any person not a citizen or national of the United States, the term  
32 "child" shall have the same meaning as defined in section three hundred  
33 seventy-one of this title, and the term "unaccompanied" with regard to  
34 an alien child is defined consistent with federal law and shall include  
35 children who were unaccompanied when they crossed the border and chil-  
36 dren who were not accompanied when they crossed the border but were  
37 rendered unaccompanied by removal from the care or custody of their  
38 parent or guardian.

39 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.