

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3923

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN, CUSICK, BENEDETTO, ABINANTI, MOSLEY, SEAWRIGHT, STERN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. PERRY, RODRIGUEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring counties to maintain a confidential registry of people of all ages with disabilities for evacuation and sheltering during disasters

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

1 Section 1. Section 23-a of the executive law, as added by chapter 658  
2 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:  
3 § 23-a. [~~County~~] Confidential county registry of [~~disabled persons~~]  
4 people of all ages with disabilities, as that term is defined in subdi-  
5 vision twenty-one of section two hundred ninety-two of this chapter;  
6 notice. 1. In each county having a local [~~disaster preparedness~~]  
7 comprehensive emergency management plan pursuant to section twenty-three  
8 of this article, in order to meet the special needs of persons of all  
9 ages with disabilities who would need assistance during evacuations and  
10 sheltering because of physical or mental [~~handicaps~~] disabilities, it  
11 [~~is recommended~~] shall be required that each chief executive maintain a  
12 confidential registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with  
13 disabilities located within the county. People of all ages with disa-  
14 bilities shall be given the option to be included in the registry. The  
15 [~~registration~~] registry shall identify those persons in need of assist-  
16 ance and plan for resource allocation to meet those identified needs.  
17 To assist the chief executive in identifying such persons, the county  
18 department of health, [~~or~~] and the county department of social services,  
19 the county department of mental health, such other county department or  
20 agency as designated by the chief executive, shall provide [~~voluntary~~]  
21 information about the registry and the registration [~~information~~] proc-  
22 ess to all of its [~~special needs clients~~] consumers of all ages with  
23 disabilities and to all incoming [~~clients~~] consumers as part of the

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

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1 intake process. The registry shall be updated annually. The registra-  
2 tion program shall give [~~disabled persons~~] such people of all ages with  
3 disabilities the option of pre-authorizing emergency response personnel  
4 to enter their homes during search and rescue operations if necessary to  
5 assure their safety and welfare during disasters.

6 2. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] confidential registry of  
7 [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in  
8 subdivision one of this section, the chief executive shall make such  
9 registry available to the appropriate county, state and federal agencies  
10 for their use in delivering services in the event of a local or state  
11 disaster. The chief executive shall, upon [~~the~~] request [~~of the state~~  
12 ~~emergency management office~~], provide such registry information to  
13 [~~such~~] the state emergency management office, provided that the confi-  
14 dentiality of such information is preserved. The chief executive may,  
15 at his or her discretion, use the registry information for local disaster  
16 preparedness [~~only~~] in coordination with other political subdivi-  
17 sions of the state, provided that the confidentiality of such informa-  
18 tion is preserved.

19 3. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] confidential registry of  
20 [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in  
21 subdivision one of this section, [~~at least semi-annually,~~] each chief  
22 executive shall annually cause to be published in a newspaper of general  
23 circulation within the county a notice of the availability of the  
24 [~~voluntary~~] registration program and each chief executive shall, in his  
25 or her discretion, also provide information about the registry and the  
26 registration process to other forms of media, and shall further ensure  
27 that information about the registry and the registration process is  
28 available on the website of such county.

29 4. All records, data, information, correspondence and communications  
30 relating to the registration of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages  
31 with disabilities as provided in subdivision one of this section are  
32 confidential, except that such information shall be available to other  
33 county chief executives for local disaster preparedness only as the  
34 chief executive of the county maintaining such registry deems necessary.  
35 Provided, however, the individual file of a person having registered  
36 with the confidential registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages  
37 with disabilities shall be made available to that person upon request.

38 5. All community-based services providers, including home health care  
39 providers, shall assist the chief executive by collecting confidential  
40 registration information for people [~~with special needs~~] of all ages  
41 with disabilities who choose to provide such information as part of  
42 program intake processes, establishing programs to increase the aware-  
43 ness of the registration process, and educating [~~clients~~] consumers  
44 about the procedures that may be necessary for their safety during  
45 disasters.

46 6. A county shall not be liable for any claim based upon the reason-  
47 able, good faith exercise or performance or the reasonable, good faith  
48 failure to exercise or perform a function or duty on the part of any  
49 officer or employee in carrying out a local disaster preparedness plan.

50 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
51 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.