

STATE OF NEW YORK

6549

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 11, 2019

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring the office of children and family services to maintain a database of available beds for runaway and/or homeless youth

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

1 Section 1. Section 532-e of the executive law, as amended by chapter
2 182 of the laws of 2002, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 532-e. Powers and duties of the office of children and family
4 services. The office of children and family services shall: (a) visit,
5 inspect and make periodic reports on the operation and adequacy of
6 approved runaway programs and transitional independent living support
7 programs;

8 (b) certify residential facilities providing care to runaway and/or
9 homeless youth, provided, however, that no certification shall be issued
10 or renewed until it can be demonstrated that a program operated pursuant
11 to this article has consistent with appropriate collective bargaining
12 agreements and applicable provisions of the civil service law, developed
13 and implemented a procedure for reviewing and evaluating the backgrounds
14 of and the information supplied by any person applying to be an employ-
15 ee, volunteer or consultant, which shall include but not be limited to
16 the following requirements: that the applicants set forth his or her
17 employment history, provide personal and employment references and sign
18 a sworn statement indicating whether the applicant, to the best of his
19 or her knowledge, has ever been convicted of a crime in this state or
20 any other jurisdiction;

21 (c) maintain a register of approved runaway programs, transitional
22 independent living support programs and runaway and homeless youth
23 service coordinators;

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

LBD09709-01-9

1 (d) submit to the governor and legislature an annual report detailing
2 the numbers and characteristics of runaway and otherwise homeless youth
3 throughout the state and their problems and service needs;

4 (e) develop and promulgate in consultation with county youth bureaus
5 and organizations or programs which have had past experience dealing
6 with runaway and homeless youth, regulations concerning the coordination
7 and integration of services available for runaway and otherwise homeless
8 youth and prohibiting the disclosure or transferal of any records
9 containing the identity of individual youth receiving services pursuant
10 to this section, without the written consent of the youth; [~~and~~]

11 (f) develop and promulgate regulations in consultation with the office
12 of temporary and disability assistance concerning the provision of
13 services by transitional independent living support programs consistent
14 with the provisions of this article[~~+~~];

15 (g) in conjunction with the commissioner of education, develop and
16 annually review a plan to ensure coordination and access to education
17 for homeless children, in accordance with the provisions of section
18 thirty-two hundred nine of the education law, and monitor compliance of
19 residential programs for runaway and homeless youth with such plan[~~+~~]
20 and

21 (h) work with service providers to gather information to create and
22 maintain a publicly searchable database of available beds at residential
23 facilities currently available for runaway and/or homeless youth on the
24 office's website and on a companion phone application. Such database
25 shall be updated in real time and shall provide and be searchable by the
26 following information:

27 (i) the name and address of the facility;

28 (ii) the number of beds available at the facility;

29 (iii) the age range allowable for the available bed;

30 (iv) the length of time the runaway and/or homeless youth may stay at
31 the facility; and

32 (v) the services offered at the facility.

33 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.