STATE OF NEW YORK

5623

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 9, 2019

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- (at request of the State Education Department) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to access to patient or client records in the investigation and prosecution of professional licensing and misconduct proceedings

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

Section 1. Subdivision 8 of section 6506 of the education law, as amended by chapter 866 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

(8) Designate a professional conduct officer, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the office of the professions, or his **or her** designee, in connection with professional licensing and misconduct proceedings and criminal matters, such officer to be empowered to issue subpoenas and administer oaths in connection with such proceedings**. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, said professional conduct officer, or his or her representatives, may examine and obtain records of patients or clients in connection with any investigation or proceeding by the department under this section. Unless express consent is obtained from the patient or client, any information so obtained shall be confidential and shall not be further disclosed except to the extent necessary for the proper function of the department, and the name of the patient or client may not be disclosed by the department or its employees at any stage of the proceedings unless the patient or client has expressly consented. Any other use or dissemination of information from such records by any person by any means, unless it is pursuant to a valid court order or otherwise authorized by law, shall be prohibited**;

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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