STATE OF NEW YORK

1256

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers A.1436-C and S.222-C, in relation to directing the office of children and family services to make information publicly available on the number of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents and the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal certain provisions of the social services law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 17 of the social services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers A.1436-C and S.222-C, is REPEALED.

§ 2. The office of children and family services shall, beginning December 31, 2021 and biannually thereafter, make information publicly available on its website regarding youth placed in foster care settings and the recruitment of foster parents. Such information as required pursuant to this section shall be aggregated by local social services districts and foster care settings. For the purposes of this section, foster care settings shall include, but not be limited to, foster boarding homes, approved relative homes, group homes, group residences, agency operated boarding homes, supervised independent living arrangements and child care institutions. The information posted on the office of children and family services' website shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

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

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1. the total number of youth placed in a foster care setting at the time of the report, as well as a comparison to the total number of youth in care since the previous report was submitted;

2. to the extent practicable, after making all diligent efforts, the reasons why such youth have been placed in a foster care setting, with the total number of youth per category at the time of the report. Such reasons may include, but not be limited to, voluntary placement pursuant to section three hundred fifty-eight-a of this chapter, a termination of parental rights pursuant to section three hundred eighty-four-b of this chapter, placements pursuant to articles ten and ten-C of the family court act, or pursuant to a contract, grant or other agreement with the federal government;

3. after making all diligent efforts, to the extent such information is available, the total number of youth placed in a foster care setting that are in need of or receiving specialized educational services;

4. to the extent such information is applicable, how many youth have been previously placed in a foster care setting in the state;

5. the total number of foster families that are certified in the state at the time of the report and whether that number has increased or decreased since the previous report was submitted;

6. after making all diligent efforts, to the extent such information is available, how many children and/or families have received preventive services through a local social services district, and of those children and/or families, how many youth subsequently entered foster care within the last calendar year for the initial report, and then since the previous report was submitted for all subsequent reports;

7. after making all diligent efforts, to the extent such information is available, the total number of placement options that have been or are anticipated to be certified as a qualified residential treatment program, as defined by 42 United States Code section 672; and

8. a description of the efforts the state has taken to assist local social services districts and voluntary agencies recruit and retain foster parents in the state in preparation for implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (P.L. 115-123).

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the social services law relating to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents, as proposed in legislative bills numbers A.1436-C and S.222-C; provided, however, that the provisions of section two of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31, 2023.