

STATE OF NEW YORK

3415

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 26, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to requiring persons and officials required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment to complete certain ongoing training; to amend the education law, in relation to requiring school superintendents, teachers and certain other licensed professionals to complete training in the reporting of suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment; and to amend the executive law and the public health law, in relation to child abuse prevention

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

Section 1. Section 413 of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. (a) Every person and official required to report child abuse or maltreatment, pursuant to subdivision one of this section, shall, prior to assumption of the position which requires such reporting, complete two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment; provided that every person and official holding such a position on or before the effective date of this paragraph shall complete such coursework or training within one year of the effective date of this subdivision.

(b) Every district attorney, assistant district attorney, police officer, peace officer, investigator employed in the office of the district attorney, pediatrician, physician who is employed in an emergency room, registered nurse and registered physician assistant who is employed by a pediatrician or in an emergency room, teacher, child care worker, foster care worker, medical examiner, coroner, preventive services worker, child protective services worker, social worker whose employment involves regular interaction with children, substance abuse and alcoholism counselor whose employment involves regular interaction with children, and mental health professional whose employment involves regular interaction with children required to report child abuse or maltreatment, pursuant to subdivision one of this section, shall, not less than

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

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1 once every two years, complete two and one-half hours of coursework or
2 training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and
3 maltreatment. Such continuing coursework or training shall, to the
4 greatest extent possible, include advanced training which builds on the
5 initial or earlier coursework required in this subdivision.

6 (c) Except as otherwise provided by the education law, the office of
7 children and family services shall approve and/or establish the course-
8 work and training required to implement the provisions of this subdivi-
9 sion. Such coursework and training may be developed so that it can be
10 offered through various means including, but not limited to, internet
11 based courses and teleconferences.

12 § 2. Subdivision 4 of section 3003 of the education law, as amended by
13 chapter 737 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

14 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall
15 require that any person applying[~~, on or after January first, nineteen~~
16 ~~hundred ninety-one,~~] for a superintendent's certificate shall, in addi-
17 tion to all the other requirements, have completed two hours of course-
18 work or training regarding the identification and reporting of child
19 abuse and maltreatment, and shall thereafter complete two and one-half
20 additional hours of such coursework or training at least once every
21 period of two years. Such coursework or training shall be provided
22 pursuant to section sixty-five hundred two-a of this chapter as if the
23 superintendent was an applicant for or holder of a license to practice a
24 profession pursuant to title eight of this chapter. The coursework or
25 training shall be obtained from an institution or provider which has
26 been approved by the department to provide such coursework or training.
27 The coursework or training shall include information regarding the phys-
28 ical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the
29 statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four hundred thir-
30 teen through four hundred twenty of the social services law, including
31 but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what other
32 actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal
33 protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to
34 report. Each applicant shall provide the department with documentation
35 showing that he or she has completed the required training.

36 § 3. Section 3209-a of the education law, as added by chapter 504 of
37 the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

38 § 3209-a. Child abuse prevention. Each school district of the state
39 shall: (1) develop, maintain and disseminate written policies and proce-
40 dures pursuant to title six of article six of the social services law
41 and applicable provisions of article ten of the family court act,
42 regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect, reporting
43 procedures and obligations of persons required to report, provisions for
44 taking a child into protective custody, mandatory reporting of deaths,
45 immunity from liability, penalties for failure to report and obligations
46 for the provision of services and procedures necessary to safeguard the
47 life or health of the child; and (2) establish, and implement on an
48 ongoing basis, a training program for all current and new school offi-
49 cials regarding the policies and procedures established pursuant to this
50 section and the signs and symptoms that school officials may be likely
51 to encounter which may indicate the presence of child abuse or maltreat-
52 ment.

53 § 4. Subdivision 2 of section 3004 of the education law, as amended by
54 chapter 737 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

55 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall
56 prescribe regulations requiring that all persons applying[~~, on or after~~

~~January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one,~~ for a certificate or license to be a teacher shall, in addition to all the other certification or licensure requirements, have completed two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment, and shall thereafter complete two and one-half additional hours of such coursework or training at least once every period of two years. Such coursework or training shall be provided pursuant to section sixty-five hundred two-a of this chapter as if the teacher was an applicant for or holder of a license to practice a profession pursuant to title eight of this chapter. The coursework or training shall be obtained from an institution or provider which has been approved by the department to provide such coursework or training. The coursework or training shall include information regarding the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four hundred thirteen through four hundred twenty of the social services law, including but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what other actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to report. Each applicant shall provide the department with documentation showing that he or she has completed the required training.

§ 5. The closing paragraph of section 3007 of the education law, as amended by chapter 544 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

Such endorsement confers on the holder of such diploma or certificate the privileges conferred by law on the holder of the diploma of a state teachers college or state college for teachers or state certificate issued in this state. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall require that any person seeking endorsement of a foreign certificate or diploma~~[, on or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one,~~ shall have completed two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment, and shall thereafter complete two and one-half additional hours of such coursework or training at least once every period of two years. Such coursework or training shall be provided pursuant to section sixty-five hundred two-a of this chapter as if the teacher was an applicant for or holder of a license to practice a profession pursuant to title eight of this chapter. The coursework or training shall be obtained from an institution or provider which has been approved by the department to provide such ~~course-work~~ coursework or training. The coursework or training shall include information regarding the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment and the statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four hundred thirteen through four hundred twenty of the social services law, including but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what other actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to report. Each applicant shall provide the department with documentation showing that he or she has completed the required training.

§ 6. Subdivision 1 of section 6501 of the education law, as amended by chapter 299 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

1. Admission to practice of a profession in this state is accomplished by a license being issued to a qualified applicant by the education department. To qualify for a license an applicant shall meet the requirements prescribed in the article for the particular profession and shall meet the requirements prescribed in section 3-503 of the general

obligations law and, where applicable, the requirements of section sixty-five hundred two-a of this subarticle.

§ 7. Subdivision 1 of section 6502 of the education law, as amended by chapter 599 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

1. A license shall be valid during the life of the holder unless revoked, annulled or suspended by the board of regents or in the case of physicians, physicians practicing under a limited permit, physician's assistants, specialist's assistants and medical residents, the licensee is stricken from the roster of such licensees by the board of regents on the order of the state board for professional medical conduct in the department of health. A licensee must register with the department and meet the requirements prescribed in section 3-503 of the general obligations law and, where applicable, the requirements of section sixty-five hundred two-a of this subarticle to practice in this state.

§ 8. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6502-a to read as follows:

§ 6502-a. Mandated reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment training. 1. Each applicant for a license to practice a profession pursuant to this title, the practice of which requires the licensee to report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of the social services law, shall, prior to being licensed to practice such profession, complete two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. Every person licensed to practice a profession pursuant to this title prior to the effective date of this section, the practice of which requires the licensee to report suspected cases of child abuse and maltreatment pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of the social services law, shall complete such coursework or training within one year of the effective date of this section.

2. Each person required to complete coursework or training pursuant to subdivision one of this section, who is employed or serves in a position listed in paragraph (b) of subdivision one-a of section four hundred thirteen of the social services law, shall thereafter complete an additional two and one-half hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment at least once every period of two years. Such continuing coursework or training shall, to the greatest extent possible, include advanced training which builds on the initial or earlier coursework required in this subdivision.

3. The department may develop a training curriculum regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment which shall be used to provide the coursework and training required by this section, provided, however, that if the department shall fail to develop such a training curriculum, then the required curriculum for the coursework and training required by this section shall be the training curriculum relating thereto developed by the office of children and family services. Every training curriculum developed by the department pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to the approval of the office of children and family services. The department shall require every institution and provider of coursework or training pursuant to this section to utilize an approved curriculum. Such coursework and training may be developed so that it can be offered through various means including, but not limited to, internet based courses and teleconferences.

§ 9. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 6507 of the education law, as amended by chapter 672 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

1 a. Establish standards for preprofessional and professional education,
2 experience and licensing examinations as required to implement the arti-
3 cle for each profession. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
4 commissioner shall establish standards requiring that all persons apply-
5 ing[~~, on or after January first, nineteen hundred ninety-one,~~] initial-
6 ly, or for the renewal of, a license, registration or limited permit to
7 be a physician, chiropractor, dentist, registered nurse, podiatrist,
8 optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed master social worker,
9 licensed clinical social worker, licensed creative arts therapist,
10 licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed mental health counse-
11 lor, licensed psychoanalyst, dental hygienist, licensed behavior
12 analyst, [~~or~~] certified behavior analyst assistant or any other profes-
13 sion which is required to report cases of suspected child abuse and
14 maltreatment, pursuant to section four hundred thirteen of the social
15 services law, shall, in addition to all the other licensure, certifi-
16 cation or permit requirements, have completed two hours of coursework
17 or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse
18 and maltreatment and if they are listed in paragraph (b) of subdivision
19 one-a of section four hundred thirteen of the social services law, shall
20 thereafter complete two and one-half additional hours of such coursework
21 or training at least once every period of two years in accordance with
22 the provisions of section sixty-five hundred two-a of this article. The
23 coursework or training shall be obtained from an institution or provider
24 which has been approved by the department to provide such coursework or
25 training. The coursework or training shall include information regarding
26 the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment
27 and the statutory reporting requirements set out in sections four
28 hundred thirteen through four hundred twenty of the social services law,
29 including but not limited to, when and how a report must be made, what
30 other actions the reporter is mandated or authorized to take, the legal
31 protections afforded reporters, and the consequences for failing to
32 report. Such coursework or training may also include information regard-
33 ing the physical and behavioral indicators of the abuse of individuals
34 with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and volun-
35 tary reporting of abused or neglected adults to the office for people
36 with developmental disabilities or the local adult protective services
37 unit. Each applicant shall provide the department with documentation
38 showing that he or she has completed the required training. The depart-
39 ment shall provide an exemption from the child abuse and maltreatment
40 training requirements to any applicant who requests such an exemption
41 and who shows, to the department's satisfaction, that there would be no
42 need because of the nature of his or her practice for him or her to
43 complete such training;

44 § 10. Section 214-a of the executive law, as added by chapter 504 of
45 the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

46 § 214-a. Child abuse prevention. The superintendent shall, for all
47 members of the state police: (1) develop, maintain and disseminate writ-
48 ten policies and procedures pursuant to title six of article six of the
49 social services law and applicable provisions of article ten of the
50 family court act, regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse or
51 neglect, reporting procedures and obligations of persons required to
52 report, provisions for taking a child into protective custody, mandatory
53 reporting of deaths, immunity from liability, penalties for failure to
54 report and obligations for the provision of services and procedures
55 necessary to safeguard the life or health of the child; [~~and~~] (2) estab-
56 lish, and implement on an ongoing basis, a training program for all

1 current and new employees regarding the policies and procedures estab-
2 lished pursuant to this section; and (3) establish, and implement on an
3 ongoing basis, a training program for all current and new employees who
4 are likely to come into contact with children in the course of their
5 professional duties, regarding the identification and investigation of
6 child abuse and maltreatment and any protocols that exist regarding
7 investigating suspected incidents of child abuse and maltreatment joint-
8 ly with local departments of social services.

9 § 11. Paragraph (j) of subdivision 1 of section 840 of the executive
10 law, as amended by chapter 617 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (j) (1) Development, maintenance and dissemination of written policies
13 and procedures pursuant to title six of article six of the social
14 services law and applicable provisions of article ten of the family
15 court act, regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect,
16 reporting procedures and obligations of persons required to report,
17 provisions for taking a child into protective custody, mandatory report-
18 ing of deaths, immunity from liability, penalties for failure to report
19 and obligations for the provision of services and procedures necessary
20 to safeguard the life or health of the child; (2) establishment and
21 implementation on an ongoing basis, of a training program for all
22 current and new police officers regarding the policies and procedures
23 established pursuant to this paragraph and the identification and inves-
24 tigation of child abuse and maltreatment and any protocols that exist
25 regarding investigating suspected incidents of child abuse and maltreat-
26 ment jointly with local departments of social services; and (3) estab-
27 lishment of a training program for police officers whose main responsi-
28 bilities are juveniles and the laws pertaining thereto, which training
29 program shall be successfully completed before such officers are accred-
30 ited pursuant to section eight hundred forty-six-h of this chapter.

31 § 12. Section 2805-n of the public health law, as added by chapter 504
32 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

33 § 2805-n. Child abuse prevention. All hospitals shall: (i) develop,
34 maintain and disseminate written policies and procedures pursuant to
35 title six of article six of the social services law and applicable
36 provisions of article ten of the family court act, regarding the manda-
37 tory reporting of child abuse or neglect, reporting procedures and obli-
38 gations of persons required to report, provisions for taking a child
39 into protective custody, mandatory reporting of deaths, immunity from
40 liability, penalties for failure to report and obligations for the
41 provision of services and procedures necessary to safeguard the life or
42 health of the child; ~~and~~ (ii) establish, and implement on an ongoing
43 basis, a training program for all current and new employees regarding
44 the policies and procedures established pursuant to this section; and
45 (iii) establish and implement, on an ongoing basis, a training program
46 for all current and new employees who regularly assess injuries in chil-
47 dren regarding the identification of child abuse and maltreatment.

48 § 13. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day
49 after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately the promulga-
50 tion, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary to
51 implement the provisions of this act on its effective date are author-
52 ized to be completed on or before such date.