STATE OF NEW YORK

4741

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. STERN, DeSTEFANO, BUTTENSCHON, BYRNES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a pilot program for the prevention of, and treatment for, the effects of traumatic stress on volunteer first responders; providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 715 to read as follows:

§ 715. Pilot program for the prevention of, and treatment for, the effects of traumatic stress on volunteer first responders. 1. The commissioner of the division of homeland security and emergency services in consultation with the state emergency medical services council, shall develop a pilot program to provide services to volunteer certified first responders including but not limited to, preventative mental health care, peer to peer training and assistance and support services for those suffering from traumatic stress related to the performance of their duties. The volunteer first responder pilot program shall be administered within four counties, two of which shall be upstate counties located north of Westchester county and two of which shall be downstate counties.

2. For the purpose of this section "volunteer certified first responder" shall mean an individual who meets the minimum requirements established by regulations pursuant to section three thousand two of the public health law and who administers initial life saving care to sick and injured persons as a member of a volunteer fire or ambulance company.

3. The commissioner of the division of homeland security and emergency services shall designate an educational facility within the state

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

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university of New York system to be responsible for monitoring the quality, appropriateness and effectiveness of the program and shall report to the legislature within one year of the effective date of this section, and on January first of each year thereafter, on the program's effectiveness.

§ 2. The sum of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars ($375,000) is hereby appropriated to the division of homeland security and emergency services out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the division of homeland security and emergency services in the manner prescribed by law and shall be proportionally distributed among the counties participating in the program based on the number of volunteer first responders in each participating county.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law; and shall expire and be deemed repealed five years after it shall take effect. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.