

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7357

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on People with Disabilities

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a pilot program to create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with both intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral needs

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

1 Section 1. Section 13.17 of the mental hygiene law is amended by  
2 adding a new subdivision (e) to read as follows:

3 (e) 1. The commissioner shall establish a three-year pilot program to  
4 create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with  
5 intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral  
6 needs. Such pilot program shall be administered by the office.

7 2. The quick assistance hotline shall be accessible via a toll-free  
8 phone number that operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

9 3. The office shall recruit and hire counselors to participate in such  
10 program. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities  
11 shall be able to call the hotline and describe any problems or issues  
12 they are having to a counselor, and such counselor shall then be able to  
13 provide necessary help, guidance, referral to services, and general  
14 information.

15 4. The hotline shall be accessible in up to one hundred seventy  
16 languages.

17 § 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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