STATE OF NEW YORK

8738

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to written material provided to human trafficking victims regarding available social and legal services

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

Section 1. Subdivision (c) of section 483-cc of the social services law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the social services law relating to advising human trafficking victims of the availability of social and legal services, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 924 and A. 3331, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Promptly upon an encounter with a person who reasonably appears to a law enforcement agency or district attorney's office to be a human trafficking victim, or a person who identifies himself or herself as a human trafficking victim, such law enforcement agency or district attorney's office shall advise such person of the availability of the services of specific, established providers of social and legal services to human trafficking victims. Each local department of social services shall maintain and shall update, at least once annually, a list of established providers of social and legal services to human trafficking victims within the social services district, which shall be provided, at least once annually, to law enforcement agencies and district attorney's offices within the district. In order to communicate effectively with such person, the law enforcement agency or district attorney's office may provide such individual with a brochure or other written material**, including by informing the individual where such written materials are available online,** translated into the six most common non-English languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency in the state or in the applicable county, city, or town; provided, however, where such person is not proficient in one of such languages, the law enforcement agency or district attorney's office shall make reasonable efforts to communicate effectively with such person, using an interpreter or interpretation services, where practicable. Unless, after receiv-

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

LBD01628-02-2

ing such advice, the apparent victim expresses that he or she does not wish the presence of a representative of such an established provider of social or legal services, the law enforcement agency or district attorney's office shall **offer to** contact the appropriate provider **or providers** and [~~**request that a representative be provided. If the apparent victim does not wish the presence of such a representative, that expression by the apparent victim shall be documented by the agency or office official in writing or other recorded form**~~] **connect such provider or providers with the apparent victim**. Nothing in this subdivision shall affect any obligation such law enforcement agency or district attorney's office may have to provide any information or assistance to such person.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the social services law relating to advising human trafficking victims of the availability of social and legal services, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 924 and A. 3331, takes effect.