

STATE OF NEW YORK

9800

IN ASSEMBLY

April 18, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to reporting of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents; and to repeal section 2 of chapter 11 of the laws of 2021, relating 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

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

1 Section 1. Section 2 of chapter 11 of the laws of 2021, relating to
2 directing the office of children and family services to make information
3 publicly available on the number of youth placed in foster care settings
4 and recruitment of foster parents and the effectiveness thereof, is
5 REPEALED.

6 § 2. Section 17 of the social services law is amended by adding a new
7 subdivision (1) to read as follows:

8 (1) submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly and
9 the temporary president of the senate beginning December thirty-first,
10 two thousand twenty-three, and biannually thereafter, regarding youth
11 placed in foster care settings and the recruitment of foster parents.
12 Such report shall be made publicly available online and shall provide
13 information, as required pursuant to this subdivision, aggregated by
14 local social services districts and foster care settings. For the
15 purposes of this subdivision, foster care settings shall include, but
16 not be limited to, foster boarding homes, approved relative homes, group
17 homes, group residences, agency operated boarding homes, supervised
18 independent living arrangements, therapeutic foster care and child care
19 institutions. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the
20 following information:

21 (i) the total number of youth placed in a foster care setting at the
22 time of the report, as well as a comparison to the total number of youth
23 in care since the previous report was submitted;

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

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1 (ii) the reasons why such youth have been placed in a foster care
2 setting, with the total number of youth per category at the time of the
3 report. Such reasons shall include, but not be limited to, voluntary
4 placement pursuant to section three hundred fifty-eight-a of this chap-
5 ter, a termination of parental rights pursuant to section three hundred
6 eighty-four-b of this chapter, placements pursuant to articles ten and
7 ten-C of the family court act, or pursuant to a contract, grant or other
8 agreement with the federal government;

9 (iii) to the extent such information is available, the total number of
10 youth placed in a foster care setting at the time of the report that are
11 in need of or receiving specialized services, either due to a mental
12 health illness or another disorder that may require additional supports
13 and services, including specialized educational services;

14 (iv) to the extent such information is available, how many youth at
15 the time of the report have been previously placed in a foster care
16 setting in the state;

17 (v) the total number of foster families that are currently certified
18 in the state at the time of the report and whether that number has
19 increased or decreased since the previous report was submitted;

20 (vi) how many children and/or families have received preventive
21 services through a local social services district, and of those children
22 and/or families, how many youth were successfully kept out of foster
23 care due to such services within the last calendar year for the initial
24 report, and then since the previous report was submitted for all subse-
25 quent reports;

26 (vii) the total number of placement options that have been certified
27 as a qualified residential treatment program, as defined by 42 USCS §
28 672; and

29 (viii) the efforts the state has taken to recruit and retain foster
30 parents in the state.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.