STATE OF NEW YORK

9800--A

IN ASSEMBLY

April 18, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. EPSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Children and Families -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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:

Section 1. 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the number of youth placed in foster care settings and recruitment of foster parents and the effectiveness thereof, is REPEALED.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.