STATE OF NEW YORK

5419

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BRISPORT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to increasing the value of rent subsidies to be included as a part of preventive services

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 5 of section 409-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 624 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, where a social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is the primary factor preventing the discharge of a child or children from foster care including, but not limited to, children with the goal of discharge to independent living, preventive services shall include, in addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance shall not exceed the sum of [~~three~~] *six* hundred dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, and shall be considered a special grant. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy to live with roommates. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive services.

§ 2. Subdivision 7 of section 409-a of the social services law, as amended by chapter 624 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is a factor that may cause the entry of a child or children into foster care and the

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

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family has at least one service need other than lack of adequate housing, preventive services may include, in addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance shall not exceed the sum of [~~three~~] **six** hundred dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, and shall be considered a special grant. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy to live with roommates. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive services.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.