

STATE OF NEW YORK

5419--A

Cal. No. 682

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 4, 2021

Introduced by Sens. BRISPORT, BIAGGI, GOUNARDES, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Children and Families -- recommitted to the Committee on Children and Families in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to increasing from \$300 a month to \$725 a month the rent subsidy payable to a foster child living independently

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 5 of section 409-a of the
2 social services law, as amended by chapter 624 of the laws of 2019, is
3 amended to read as follows:
4 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, where a
5 social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is
6 the primary factor preventing the discharge of a child or children from
7 foster care including, but not limited to, children with the goal of
8 discharge to independent living, preventive services shall include, in
9 addition to any other payments or benefits received by the family,
10 special cash grants in the form of rent subsidies, including rent
11 arrears, or any other assistance, sufficient to obtain adequate housing.
12 Such rent subsidies or assistance shall not exceed the sum of [~~three~~
13 six hundred dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of
14 more than three years, and shall be considered a special grant. Nothing
15 in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of those using
16 such rent subsidy to live with roommates. The provisions of this para-
17 graph shall not be construed to limit such official's authority to
18 provide other preventive services.

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

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

4 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a social
5 services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is a factor
6 that may cause the entry of a child or children into foster care and the
7 family has at least one service need other than lack of adequate hous-
8 ing, preventive services may include, in addition to any other payments
9 or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the form of
10 rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance, suffi-
11 cient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance
12 shall not exceed the sum of [~~three~~ six] hundred dollars per month, shall
13 not be provided for a period of more than three years, and shall be
14 considered a special grant. Nothing in this subdivision shall be
15 construed to limit the ability of those using such rent subsidy to live
16 with roommates. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed
17 to limit such official's authority to provide other preventive services.

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