

STATE OF NEW YORK

5419--B

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 -- again 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:

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) (i) 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~~ seven hundred twenty-five dollars per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years, may be provided up to age twenty-four for youth discharged from foster care, 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

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

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1 of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit such official's
2 authority to provide other preventive services.

3 (ii) Provided, however, that for each fiscal year beginning after the
4 effective date of this subparagraph, the commissioner shall set the
5 maximum amount for such rent subsidies or assistance pursuant to
6 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at the amount of the previous fiscal
7 year indexed to any positive growth in the consumer price index as set
8 by the United States bureau of labor statistics.

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

12 7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a
13 social services official determines that a lack of adequate housing is a
14 factor that may cause the entry of a child or children into foster care
15 and the family has at least one service need other than lack of adequate
16 housing, preventive services may include, in addition to any other
17 payments or benefits received by the family, special cash grants in the
18 form of rent subsidies, including rent arrears, or any other assistance,
19 sufficient to obtain adequate housing. Such rent subsidies or assistance
20 shall not exceed the sum of [~~three~~] seven hundred twenty-five dollars
21 per month, shall not be provided for a period of more than three years,
22 may be provided up to age twenty-four for youth discharged from foster
23 care, and shall be considered a special grant. Nothing in this subdivi-
24 sion shall be construed to limit the ability of those using such rent
25 subsidy to live with roommates. The provisions of this paragraph shall
26 not be construed to limit such official's authority to provide other
27 preventive services.

28 (b) Provided, however, that for each fiscal year beginning after the
29 effective date of this paragraph, the commissioner shall set the maximum
30 amount for such rent subsidies or assistance pursuant to paragraph (a)
31 of this subdivision at the amount of the previous fiscal year indexed to
32 any positive growth in the consumer price index as set by the United
33 States bureau of labor statistics.

34 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.