STATE OF NEW YORK

6079--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to a gender-neutral marker for the welfare management system

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

Section 1. Section 21 of the social services law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. The welfare management system and any related state systems required to process applications for benefits and to distribute such benefits shall recognize "X" as a valid option when placed in any field that requests information about an applicant's gender or sex. All application materials, instructions, public guidance, and related materials associated with the benefits application process, including electronic and online materials and applications shall be amended and updated to clarify that any person can select or indicate a gender or sex designation of "X" when such information is requested. The content of the gender or sex field shall not delay or otherwise hinder access to services for any applicant. For the purposes of this subdivision the term "X" means a gender or sex designation that is not exclusively male or female.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the department of social services shall amend, distribute and make available any printed materials relating to benefits under any program for which the department has supervisory responsibilities, including informational and instructional materials and applications for benefits within one hundred twenty days of the date on which this act shall have become a law.

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

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