

STATE OF NEW YORK

6274--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 20, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a pilot program to create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with both intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral needs

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

Section 1. Section 13.17 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (e) to read as follows:

(e) 1. The commissioner shall establish a three-year pilot program to create a non-crisis, quick assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or complex behavioral needs. Such pilot program shall be administered by the office.

2. The quick assistance hotline shall be accessible via a toll-free phone number that operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

3. The office shall recruit and hire counselors to participate in such program. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities shall be able to call the hotline and describe any problems or issues they are having to a counselor, and such counselor shall then be able to provide necessary help, guidance, referral to services, and general information.

4. The hotline shall be accessible in English and the six most common non-English languages spoken by individuals with limited-English proficiency in the state of New York, based on United States census data.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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