STATE OF NEW YORK

6294

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

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to requiring the office for people with developmental disabilities to produce a report evaluating the state's response to the COVID-19 state disaster emergency as it relates to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Section 13.07 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (f) to read as follows:

(f) (1) The office, in consultation with the department of health, shall produce a report to review the impact and the state's response to the COVID-19 state disaster emergency, as declared by executive order two hundred two of two thousand twenty, as it relates to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) a timeline and inventory of any and all relevant executive orders, guidance and regulations put forth by the department of health, the office, the executive or any other agency between March first, two thousand twenty and April first, two thousand twenty-one in response to the COVID-19 outbreak;

(ii) a timeline of any outreach conducted by the office with stakeholders, including self-advocates, family advocates and voluntary providers and what, if any, changes to guidance were made as a result of such communication with stakeholders;

(iii) any actions or guidance the office, the department of health and/or any other agency took to minimize exposure of COVID-19 between residents and staff;

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

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(iv) an inventory of actions the office, the department of health and/or any other agency took to assist in the procurement or provisioning of personal protective equipment for residents and staff in state operated facilities, and facilities operated by voluntary providers. For purposes of this section, "personal protective equipment" shall mean all equipment worn or used to minimize exposure to a communicable disease, including but not limited to gloves, masks and face shields;

(v) an inventory of costs incurred by the office related to responding to COVID-19;

(vi) an inventory of actions the office, the department of health and/or any other agency took to assist underserved communities including but not limited to racial and ethnic minority communities; and

(vii) specific challenges that were faced with regards to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(2) The office shall also evaluate policies, procedures, and programs that were implemented during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to determine the efficacy on safety.

(3) The office shall provide recommendations of changes to any laws or regulations that impeded response to COVID-19 to the legislature.

(4) Such report shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than nine months from the effective date of this subdivision and shall be made publicly available online.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed ten days after transmission of the report of the findings by the office for people with developmental disabilities to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, as provided in section one of this act. Provided, however, that the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the transmission of the report of the findings of the office for people with developmental disabilities, as provided in section one of this act, in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law.