STATE OF NEW YORK

8244

IN SENATE

February 7, 2022

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing an intensive addiction recovery and mental health integrated services pilot program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Topher's Law".

§ 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.18-d to read as follows:

§ 19.18-d Intensive addiction and mental health integrated services pilot program.

1. Within the funds appropriated to the office, a pilot program shall be established to support two three-year demonstration programs that provide intensive addiction and mental health integrated services to individuals with significant addiction and mental health issues who have had multiple and frequent treatment episodes. One of the demonstration programs shall be located in a rural area and one shall be located in an urban setting as determined by the commissioner. The services provided shall include but not be limited to mental health counseling services for the individual experiencing significant addiction and mental health issues and their family, peer supports, and transportation assistance. Such services shall be primarily provided in the community or home of such individual, as clinically and socially necessitated.

2. Not later than June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-four, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall provide the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the senate standing committee on alcoholism and drug abuse, and the chair of the assembly committee on alcoholism and drug abuse with a written evaluation of the demonstration programs established pursuant to subdivision one of this section. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum,

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

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address the overall effectiveness of such demonstration programs, identify best practices for services provided under the demonstration programs and any additional services that may be appropriate within each type of program operated, regulated, funded, or approved by the office, and address whether continuation or expansion of the pilot program established by subdivision one of this section is recommended. The written evaluation shall be made publicly available on the office's website.

§ 3. This act shall take effect April 1, 2022 and shall expire March 31, 2025 when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.