STATE OF NEW YORK

7269

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a support team assisted response pilot program

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 7.49 to read as follows:

§ 7.49 Support team assisted response pilot program.

(a) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of criminal justice services, commissioner of health, New York state emergency medical services council and local authorities, shall establish a support team assisted response pilot program in any city with a population of one million or more for the purpose of providing emergency response services for mental health, substance use and other public health emergencies. Such pilot program shall:

(i) establish a process where mental health professionals and emergency medical technicians are dispatched by the 911 emergency assistance system to provide free medical care, first aid, or mental health support for non-criminal emergencies including but not limited to overdoses, suicidal individuals, individuals experiencing mental health crises, and intoxication;

(ii) establish a training program for such mental health professionals and emergency medical technicians to respond to such non-criminal emergencies; and

(iii) coordinate activities and promote cooperation and collaboration between the office, program participants and the local community.

(b) Eighteen months after the effective date of this section, the commissioner shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on the effectiveness of this pilot program. Such report shall include:

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

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(i) a review of all agencies that have participated in the program and the number of individuals that have completed training;

(ii) an analysis of the impact of the program on local communities including the number of times participants have been dispatched, the types of emergency calls, the care provided and the outcomes of such emergency calls;

(iii) an analysis of any logistical challenges and the costs associated with such program and recommendations for improvement;

(iv) a plan for statewide expansion of the program; and

(v) any recommendations for additional legislative enactments that may be needed or required, to improve, enhance and subsequently expand the program as determined to be appropriate by the commissioner.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.