STATE OF NEW YORK

7712

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 20, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend public health law, in relation to the myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome education and outreach program

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 207 of the public health law is amended by adding a new paragraph (p) to read as follows:

(p) Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome ("ME/CFS"), a multi-system disease associated with neurological, immunological and energy metabolism impairment characterized by long-standing and debilitating fatigue with a delayed exacerbation of symptoms and loss of stamina following even minimal mental or physical function; symptoms may also include cognitive dysfunction, sleep abnormalities, autonomic manifestations and pain; susceptibility may be genetic but the disease can be triggered by infection in the majority of patients. ME/CFS is a common chronic consequence of viruses, with ten to twelve percent of those with serious infection going on to develop the disease. Given that there are no diagnostic tests or biomarkers, and no federal food and drug administration approved treatments for ME/CFS, diagnosis and management of this disease can be more difficult. There are few clinical experts available in New York state, so education and awareness of health care providers and the public is imperative. Education materials shall include but not be limited to information about diagnosing ME/CFS including specific scientific information about what the disease is, what the symptoms are, who is susceptible and how patients are currently treated. ME/CFS education and awareness materials shall also include recognition that ME/CFS is a real disease, is not a psychiatric disorder, is not caused by a lack of exercise and that management of the disease can be more difficult as a result.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it 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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