STATE OF NEW YORK

8690

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations; and to amend a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the mental hygiene law relating to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2911 and A. 1953, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

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

Section 1. Subdivisions (d), (e), (f) and (g) of section 13.42 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the mental hygiene law relating to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2911 and A. 1953, are amended to read as follows:

(d)[~~(1) There is hereby created within the board the autism detection, education and mapping program. This program is established~~] **The board shall meet quarterly** to [~~promote~~] **discuss** screening and detection of autism, **how** to [~~educate~~] **promote education of** the public regarding autism, to [~~provide~~] **promote** counseling and referral services and to [~~map~~] **discuss and report on previously mapped** locations of occurrence of autism **as provided for in the recent autism mapping study completed by the State and City Universities of New York and published in the Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, entitled "Exploratory spatial analysis of autism rates in New York school districts"**.

[~~(2) The program shall include the:~~

~~(i) establishment of a statewide public education and outreach campaign to publicize autism detection and education services, such campaign shall include: general community education, autism screening services, information on the extent of coverage for such services by health insurance, any available medical assistance program and other public and private programs.~~

~~(ii) provision of grants to approved organizations under subdivision (e) of this section; and~~

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

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~~(iii) compilation of data concerning the autism detection, education and mapping program including mapping of the frequency of the occurrence of autism in various locations in the state and dissemination of the data to the public.~~]

(e)[~~(1) The board shall make grants within the amounts appropriated to approved organizations, as defined in paragraph two of this subdivision, for the provision of services relating to autism screening, detection and mapping as part of this program. Such services shall include but not be limited to the:~~

~~(i) promotion and provision of detection of autism;~~

~~(ii) provision of counseling and information on treatment options and referral for appropriate medical treatment;~~

~~(iii) dissemination of information to the general public and to health care professionals concerning autism, the benefits of detection and treatment, and the availability of autism services;~~

~~(iv) identification of local autism screening services within the approved organization's region;~~

~~(v) provision of information, counseling and referral services to individuals diagnosed with autism; and~~

~~(vi) mapping of the frequency of the occurrence of autism in various locations of the state.~~

~~(2) For the purposes of this section, "approved organization" shall mean an organization approved by the board, to provide services under this subdivision. Such organizations shall include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

~~(i) a hospital licensed under article twenty-eight of the public health law;~~

~~(ii) a health maintenance organization licensed under article forty-three of the insurance law or certified under article forty-four of the public health law;~~

~~(iii) an organization with program expertise in autism related issues;~~

~~(iv) a county or city health department; or~~

~~(v) any combination of the above.~~

~~(3) The board shall develop recommendations for the implementation of autism detection, education and mapping programs by approved organizations which shall ensure the following:~~

~~(i) integration of the approved organization with existing health care providers;~~

~~(ii) maximizing third party reimbursement; and~~

~~(iii) providing data collection for mapping of the occurrence of autism in various locations of the state.~~

~~(f) Such board shall meet at least quarterly.~~] Special meetings may be called by the chair. The agenda and meeting place of all regular or special meetings shall be made available to the public in advance of such meetings.

[~~(g)~~] **(f)** The advisory board shall submit a written report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly by no later than October first of the year next succeeding the effective date of this section and annually thereafter, setting forth the recommendations and activities of the council on matters within the scope of its duties as set forth in this section. Such annual report shall also include information concerning the [~~operation of the autism detection, education and mapping program, and the experience of the program in providing detection, education and mapping of the frequency of the occurrence of autism~~] **discussion of screening and detection of autism, how to promote education of the public regarding autism, to**

promote counseling and referral services, and to discuss previously mapped locations of the occurrence of autism in various locations around the state[~~. Approved organizations shall provide such data and assessment as the board may require for such report~~] as detailed in the recent autism mapping study completed by the State and City Universities of New York, and published in the Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, entitled "Exploratory spatial analysis of autism rates in New York school districts". Such report shall [~~also~~] include any recommendations for additional action to respond to the high incidence of autism in this state.

§ 2. Section 2 of a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the mental hygiene law relating to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2911 and A. 1953, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed on December 31, 2022. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the mental hygiene law relating to the autism detection and education program and mapping of autism locations, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2911 and A. 1953, takes effect.