

STATE OF NEW YORK

8903

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN, CUSICK, BENEDETTO, ABINANTI, SEAWRIGHT, STERN, REYES, BUTTENSCHON, OTIS, SANTABARBARA, FALL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. PERRY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring counties to maintain a confidential registry of people of all ages with disabilities for evacuation and sheltering during disasters

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

Section 1. Section 23-a of the executive law, as added by chapter 658 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

§ 23-a. [County] Confidential county registry of [disabled persons] people of all ages with disabilities, as that term is defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two hundred ninety-two of this chapter; notice. 1. In each county having a local [disaster-preparedness] comprehensive emergency management plan pursuant to section twenty-three of this article, in order to meet the special needs of persons of all ages with disabilities who would need assistance during evacuations and sheltering because of physical or mental [handicaps] disabilities, it [is-recommended] shall be required that each chief executive maintain a confidential registry of [disabled-persons] people of all ages with disabilities located within the county. People of all ages with disabilities shall be given the option to be included in the registry. The [registration] registry shall identify those persons in need of assistance and plan for resource allocation to meet those identified needs. To assist the chief executive in identifying such persons, the county department of health, [or] and the county department of social services, the county department of mental health, such other county department or agency as designated by the chief executive, shall provide [voluntary] information about the registry and the registration [information] process to all of its [special-needs-clients] consumers of all ages with disabilities and to all incoming [clients] consumers as part of the intake process. The registry shall be updated annually. The registration program shall give [disabled-persons] such people of all ages with

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

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1 disabilities the option of pre-authorizing emergency response personnel
2 to enter their homes during search and rescue operations if necessary to
3 assure their safety and welfare during disasters.

4 2. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] confidential registry of
5 [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in
6 subdivision one of this section, the chief executive shall make such
7 registry available to the appropriate county, state and federal agencies
8 for their use in delivering services in the event of a local or state
9 disaster. The chief executive shall, upon [~~the~~] request [~~of the state~~
10 ~~emergency management office~~], provide such registry information to
11 [~~such~~] the state emergency management office, provided that the confi-
12 dentiality of such information is preserved. The chief executive may,
13 at his or her discretion, use the registry information for local disaster
14 preparedness [~~only~~] in coordination with other political subdivisions
15 of the state, provided that the confidentiality of such information
16 is preserved.

17 3. Upon the establishment of a [~~voluntary~~] confidential registry of
18 [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages with disabilities as provided in
19 subdivision one of this section, [~~at least semi-annually,~~] each chief
20 executive shall annually cause to be published in a newspaper of general
21 circulation within the county a notice of the availability of the
22 [~~voluntary~~] registration program and each chief executive shall, in his
23 or her discretion, also provide information about the registry and the
24 registration process to other forms of media, and shall further ensure
25 that information about the registry and the registration process is
26 available on the website of such county.

27 4. All records, data, information, correspondence and communications
28 relating to the registration of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages
29 with disabilities as provided in subdivision one of this section are
30 confidential, except that such information shall be available to other
31 county chief executives for local disaster preparedness only as the
32 chief executive of the county maintaining such registry deems necessary.
33 Provided, however, the individual file of a person having registered
34 with the confidential registry of [~~disabled persons~~] people of all ages
35 with disabilities shall be made available to that person upon request.

36 5. All community-based services providers, including home health care
37 providers, shall assist the chief executive by collecting confidential
38 registration information for people [~~with special needs~~] of all ages
39 with disabilities who choose to provide such information as part of
40 program intake processes, establishing programs to increase the aware-
41 ness of the registration process, and educating [~~clients~~] consumers
42 about the procedures that may be necessary for their safety during
43 disasters.

44 6. A county shall not be liable for any claim based upon the reason-
45 able, good faith exercise or performance or the reasonable, good faith
46 failure to exercise or perform a function or duty on the part of any
47 officer or employee in carrying out a local disaster preparedness plan.

48 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
49 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.